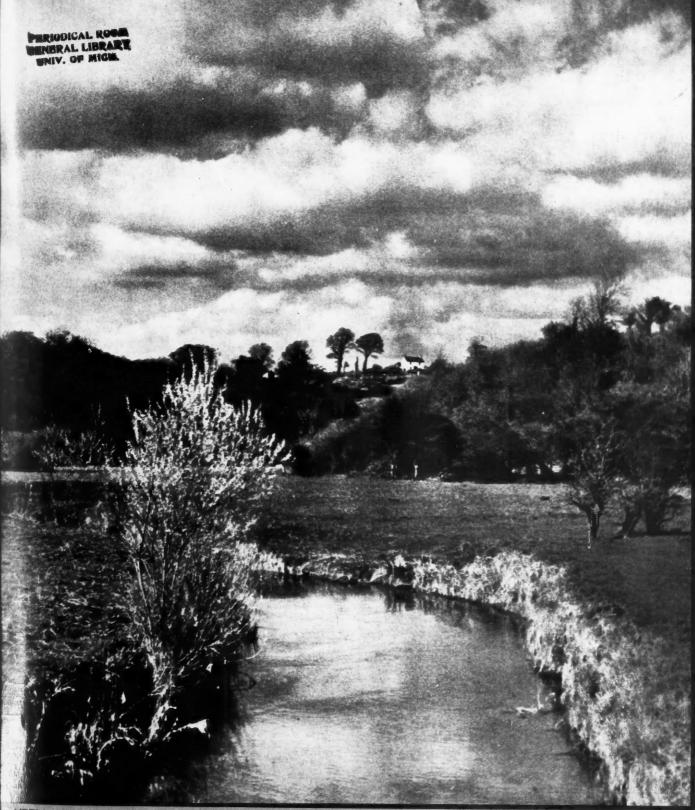
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MAY 15 1942

COUNTRY LIFE

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Get on with the job now. Don't delay anothe
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CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENT Continued on Inside Back Cover PROPERTY LINEAGE page 738

COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCI. No. 2361.

APRIL 17, 1942

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11 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms.

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3 cottages. Pleasure grounds, finely timbered, with hard tennis court.

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Good position. Excellent views,

A COUNTRY RESIDENCE

9 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception

MAIN SERVICES. PARTIAL CENTRAL HEATING.

GARAGES FOR 4 CARS.

Attractive Grounds with Lawns, TENNIS COURT, KITCHEN GARDEN, ETC.

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Near Goodwood Racecourse and several Golf Links.

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12 bedrooms, day and night nurseries, 8 bathrooms, lounge, 2 reception rooms. Usual domestic offices.

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Close to village 420 feet up.

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IN ALL 27 ACRES

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Facing Due South on Gravel Soil with Good Views.

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It is approached by a drive with a lodge at entrance and the well-arranged accommodation is all on two floors.

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THE GARDENS ARE WELL LAID OUT

and include hard tennis court, swimming pool, croquet lawn, pasture land. ${\bf HOME\ FARM\ OF\ 180\ ACRES}$

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The house contains entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

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tabling for 7. Garage for 6 cars. Pair of cottages, each containing 4 rooms.

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Main electric light

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Hall, 3 reception, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main services. Central heating.

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South aspect.

Gravel soil.

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Charming gardens well maintained, including hard tennis court, lawns, rose garden, orchard, kitchen garden, paddock, etc., in all

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Prolific kitchen garden and pleasure garden extending to about 1 ACRE

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London 30 miles. Situated on high ground adjoining well-known woods.

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Central heating. Electric slight. Company's water.
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Adjoining Golf Courses, on high ground, only half an hour from Town, 5 minutes' walk from station.

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With large hall, fine drawing and dining rooms, about 20 ft. by 16 ft., 6 or 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Garage for 2 cars.

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with yew hedges, lawns, orchard, good kitchen garden.

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ENCHANTING OLD MANOR HOUSE OF COTSWOLD ARCHITECTURE

8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. Electric light and gas. Main water. Central heating. Stabling. Garage. Fine oak beams, open fireplaces, stone-mullioned windows.

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Adjoining well-known Golf Course, Easy daily access to London



GLOS. A COTSWOLD MANOR HOUSE, modernised and in excellent order, close to bus service to nearest town. 8 bedrooms (4 more attics, if required), 4 bathrooms, a tabling and the standard attacks at the standard attacks. DELIGHTFUL MODERN GEORGIAN STYLE 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 panelled RESIDENCE. 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 panelled reception rooms. Good offices. 2 garages with chauffeur's flat. CENTRAL HEATING. MAIN WATER. GAS and ELECTRICITY. Matured Grounds with tennis court, kitchen garden and paddock. ABOUT 4 ACRES. FREEMOLD FOR SALE. PRICE £7,500—TURNER LORD & RANSOM, 127, Mount Street, W.1. 4 reception rooms, good offices, garage, extensive stabling suitable for storage). Central heating. Lavatory basins in bedrooms. Electric light. Main water. Modern drainage Charming, well-timbered grounds, with large walled kitchen garden. 4 ACRES. FREEHOLD FOR SALE, 25,000 or would be Let at £200 per annum.

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BUCKS. ARCHITECT DESIGNED, LABOURSAVING HOUSE. 600 ft. up. 4 bedrooms, boxroom,
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FOR LINEAGE **ADVERTISEMENTS**

OF PROPERTIES INDEXED UNDER COUNTIES

(For Sale, To Let, Wanted, etc.) be "CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES," PAGE 738

DEVON and S. & W. COUNTIES

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Golf near by. FOR SALE FREEHOLD.
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Facing due south with BEAUTIFUL VIEWS DIRECT-LY OVER ASHDOWN FOREST. 8 bedrooms, 2 baths, lounge hall, 3 reception. On two floors only. Mains services: central heating; garage, etc. Delightful gardens, orchard and paddock.

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Lounge hall and 3 reception rooms with polished oak
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Central heating. Main electricity.
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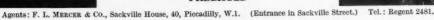
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having southern aspect and in good condition throughout.

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Matured gardens enclosed by brick wall with fine old trees, shady lawns and productive kitchen garden. ENTRANCE LODGE. COTTAGE AND BOTHY. GARAGE AND STABLING. BOATHOUSE. BATHING HUT.

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c.4

c.3

c.2



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He fairly takes the bisew

-and Weston MAKES the biscuit

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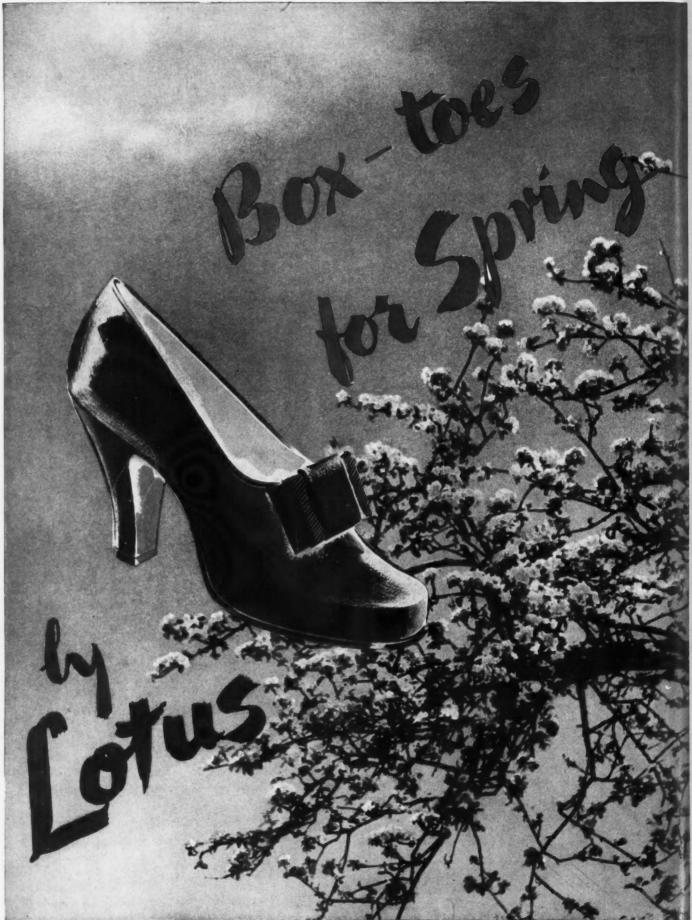
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Our women and children depend on you for milk. You must depend on silage to produce it. It is simple, easy and cheap to make. Three tons (more if top-dressed) can be made from one acre of young leafy grass and will replace ½ ton of dairy cake. Fed with hay, this supplies all the food requirements of a 2-gallon cow for six months.

DON'T DELAY-DO THREE THINGS NOW

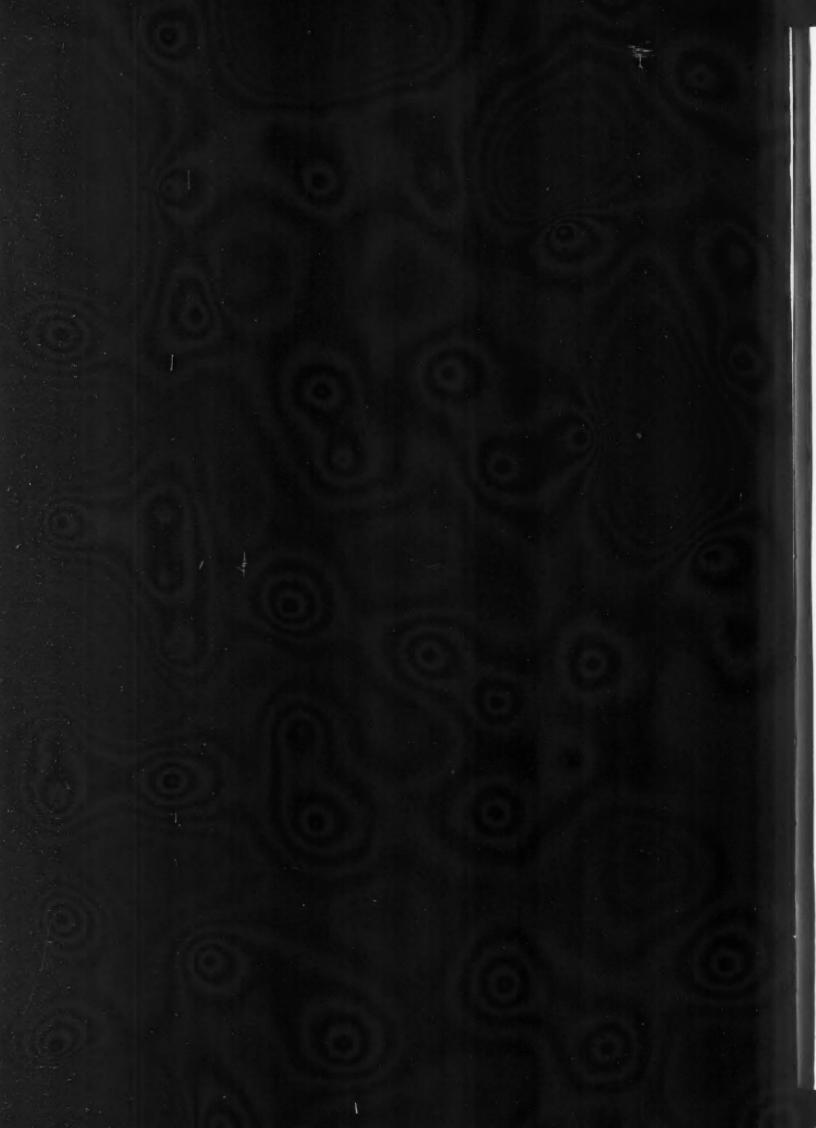
- 1 Top-dress your grass.
- 2 Order your molasses (return your last year's barrels and drums.)
- 3 Buy a silo or get the materials to make one. If you can't get either, make silage in pit or clamp.

* Help to relieve the strain on transport. Carry your own goods as far as possible. vehicles with your neighbour.



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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCI. No. 2361

APRIL 17, 1942



Harli

MRS. REGINALD GORDON-LENNOX

Mrs. Gordon-Lennox, who is the eldest daughter of Captain C. D. Leyland and of Mrs. R. Fawcett, of Boham's House, Blewbury, Berkshire, was married in February to Captain Reginald A. C. Gordon-Lennox, Scots Guards, the only son of Brigadier-General Lord Esmé Gordon-Lennox and of the Baroness Cederström of March Hare Lodge, Newmarket

COUNTRY LIFE

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The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in COUNTRY LIFE should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export.

LET WELL ALONE

UCH has been said about milk being the first priority product in war-time farming. Each dairy farmer in England and Wales has lately received a letter signed by Mr. Hudson urging him to produce every gallon possible so that the public, and especially the children, may not go short of this essential food. Yet the negotiations over contract prices and marketing arrangements were allowed to drag on for weeks, and, even now that summer prices have been announced, dairy farmers do not know exactly where they and their organisation, the Milk Marketing Board, stand with the Government. This is not the atmosphere that engenders confidence and spurs farmers to produce the extra gallonage that is needed now and will be needed still more urgently next winter. needs to be said plainly that dairy farmers will not tolerate interference with the functions of their Milk Marketing Board, built up laboriously into an efficient organisation in the years before The Board has co-operated willingly the war. enough with the Ministry of Food and, in comparison with the marketing controls instituted by the Ministry of Food, milk marketing has run very smoothly. Now the Ministry is apparently fired with a desire to take over milk transport arrangements, extinguish some of the premiums which producers have earned for special services to distributors, and turn the Board's staff into Civil Servants.

Lord Woolton might have learned something from the Ministry's unhappy experience with the National Vegetable Marketing Company, in which Civil Servants and the distributive trade were allowed to have too much to say, to the detriment of the producers and production. Now this company is being wound up. Why does not Lord Woolton leave well alone when he can call on an established organisation like the Milk Marketing Board to handle the affairs of a vital industry such as milk production? The answer may be found in the influence of the distributive trade, which seems to be all-powerful in his Ministry. These controversies must prejudice future production, and Lord Woolton, if he is wise, will dispose of them now.

Mr. Hudson, for his part, has instructed the War Agricultural Committees to press ahead with plans for increasing milk production next winter. Each county has been given a gallonage target and the milk output of each farm is to be checked to discover the farms where production is low. These farms are to be visited by experienced dairy farmers and advice given on the means to be adopted to obtain better results. Such supervision of herd management as well as cropping will no doubt be helpful

in many cases. The trouble may be some cows that are not worth keeping, or it may be that the farmer has not succeeded in providing good enough food for his cows to supplement the official rations of feedingstuffs allowed. There are many farms where more grass silage ought to be made this summer. High quality silage has proved during the past winter one of the most valuable milk-producing foods. Indeed, none of the difficulties facing dairy farmers in making their herds more self-supporting is insuperable. Allowed to proceed with their business in full confidence, they will not fail the public.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

R. R. A. BUTLER promised the National M. R. A. BUILER promised the Authority Union of Teachers more substance and less shadow in Educational reform. topic of boys from State schools passing on to boarding schools, he envisaged selection by record and character rather than by examina-tion. Discussion in the Daily Telegraph has produced suggestions as to the way in which the Public Schools may be helped to face their post-war problems. They are partly those of finance, partly those of retaining their traditions and individuality, and partly that of broadening the social basis upon which they rest. The same financial plight, though on a less spectacular scale, faced the surviving Grammar Schools of 50 years ago. Experience of the secondary schools of to-day does not suggest that they have lost as much by interference as they have gained by extra funds. The fears of the public boarding schools may also be partly illusory, though here the dangers of asking for State subsidy on a large and effective scale are obviously so great as to justify the consideration of every possible alternative. Mr. George Christ suggested the other day that a combination of presentation and scholarships on the basis which prevails at the Bluecoat School might at the same time broaden the social basis of the Public Schools and keep within their walls the sons of many who have made and shared the old traditions. Permanent places might be capitalised and the rights of presentation purchased by and vested in the many professional and other associations which would value such a privilege. At Bryanston a newly-established "bursary fund" will shortly provide between 30 and 40 boys with free places for seven years, a variant of Mr. Christ's suggestion worthy of consideration elsewhere. The principle is an old one, as many schools know, but none the worse for that.

APRIL

THESE pearly mornings orchard boughs
Are piled with blossom, deep as snow,
And in the wet grass round the house
The daffodils in clusters grow.
There violets, but dimly seen,
Jewel the borders in between,
And black-thorn blossom, starry-white,
Clouds the dark hedgerow with delight.
PHYLLIS M. TAYLOR.

THE YOUNG AND THE OLD

A PROJECT that may have a far-reaching effect on the appearance of town and country was alluded to by Professor A. E. Richardson, A.R.A., speaking at the exhibition PROJECT that may have a far-reaching "Historic London Under Fire." scheme of affiliation to the architectural protective societies" for schoolboys. Stowe School, which has always shown a realisation of the oneness of architecture, history and civilisation (perhaps because it inhabits one of the noblest demonstrations of that truth) has led the way, and no doubt others will Eton, for instance, has a thriving archæological society which inclines its members to appreciate and study fine things. County Education authorities are beginning to embody the elements of architecture in the Secondary curriculum; it would be of value, too, if the National Buildings Record were in a position to furnish public libraries and schools with large display photographs of great English buildings, to supplement the Parthenon and Pyramids. The coming reconstruction of London and other cities, and the re-shaping of the countryside, makes it highly important that the rising generation should have a clearer notion than their fathers of what constitutes

good architecture—if only to gain some standard with which to assess contemporary design. Professor Richardson instanced Russia and Scandinavia as countries whose people have found the benefit of drawing on their architectural tradition for their modern idiom. The tendency to an increasingly scientific and engineering approach may well disappoint hopes of post-war reconstruction by producing a sterile materialist architecture. Every means should be used to educate the nation in our tradition of humane architecture.

THE FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE

SCHEMES for evening-up living condition in general by spreading town industry and town amenities over the country, sooner later run up against the fact that town a country mice do not necessarily thrive togeth "Distribution of industry" is the official locaterm policy which the Scott Committee framing in detail, but some important qua-fications were expressed by speakers at recent Cambridge conference on Industry a Rural Life. Professor Sargent Florence, Birmingham, emphasised that only certain industries were suited to distribution, and that they should be selected so that the countr own industry of agriculture is assisted rath than disorganised; for instance, by distributing such industries as provide winter work for men (sugar refining, rope, carriage and cart works) or attract the young (aircraft, glass-making), or employ a large proportion of women (boots and shoes, hosiery, rayon, food processing). He recognised that at present domestic service absorbed a high proportion of country women, but suggested that, if the rich "who can afford to live in style in the country" diminish greatly, alternative work will be needed by women. Actually it is less the stylish rich than the working middle class who require such domestics and it seems improbable that the total demand will diminish greatly, even if large establishments disappear. Domestic service is a valuable training to girls for having a home of their own and should be recognised as such before it is decided to draft all young country women into factories. Dr. W. K. Slater, of Dartington, discussing the cultural side of the problem, similarly stressed the need for developing the homely interests and entertainments of country people rather than destroying them with the sophisticated amusements of the town. The first essential, in every case, is a well-equipped village hall and sports ground. On social, economic and cultural grounds, the future of the country village seems to lie with village townships, from which farm workers radiate to their jobs and which are capable of sustaining a higher standard of life than the small, scattered, mediæval villages.

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WASTING THEIR SWEETNESS

T is sad but undeniable that the facts which T is sad but undernable that the later we remember best in our English history deal with good things to eat and drink. King Canute and the waves and Sir Walter Raleigh's cloak are but exceptions to prove this rule. They cannot stand against the combined weight of Alfred and the cakes, Henry I and his surfeit of lampreys, King John and his equally regrettable excess in peaches and new ale, and Clarence and his butt of Malmsey. Mrs. Markham and the author of Little Arthur knew their business when they laid stress on these things, and how freshly the lampreys come back to us to-day when we read of a vast catch of them in the Douro. Unhappily it seems that the Portuguese are unworthy of their good fortune, if indeed it be good fortune. Most of us have never tasted lampreys and 50 cannot tell for certain, but we hold loyally and patriotically that a king of England would not have killed himself with them unless they had at least something of succulence. The peor of Portugal love sardines, and, having been deprived of them, sullenly refuse, as we are to d, to be consoled. They think a crowded hear of sardines is worth an age of lampreys and decline all substitutes. Sam Weller decland that when a man is very poor he "rushes at of his lodgings and eats oysters in reg'ar desperation." His father added that the sa le rule applied to pickled salmon; so perh ps those who have been robbed of their sardies may yet turn to lampreys in despair.



E. W. Tattersall

BY THE "AULD KIRK" ON THE SHORES OF LOCH ACHRAY: THE FIRST SPRING SUNSHINE

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

HE fish shortage is inducing what one might call an unfortunate mercurial atmosphere in the old peaceful pastime of fishing, for the idea paramount in the angler's mind to-day, when watching for the rise, is the necessity for returning with something in his creel to figure on the breakfast table—or, if it is large enough, on the luncheon table with mayonnaise sauce. On the other side of the picture is the fact that the social standing of the angler in the kitchen has gone up enormously, and he is no longer regarded as a nuisance who returns with unwanted small fish that someone has to clean out and de-fin, but rather as a meal provider whose hobby is in every way laudable.

In the early days of April, in most uncertain weather, I went out to try for a salmon, and, as salmon is at the best of times an uncertainty, took with me also my trout rod. I had just located a couple of fish, round about the 20-lb. mark, below the eel weir when the rain clouds, which had been working up all the morning, broke suddenly in the form of a heavy hailstorm. Immediately the surface of the water took on a honeycomb pattern of violently jumping drops, but, forcing their way through the flattening effect of the hail, could be seen the big dimples and bulges of rising trout as every fish in the river started to feed with complete abandon on one of the biggest hatches of March Browns I have ever seen.

THE salmon rod was immediately discarded, and for the next hectic half-hour I was taking trouf as fast as I could land them, but in the broken water and the dense clusters of March Browns, among which I could never detect my own fly, I have no idea whether I was fishing dry fly, wet fly or the nymph. Whatever I did the trout obligingly overlooked every fault a fishe-man can commit, and were just as willing to tale the fly when it sat half-sunk in the midst of a coil of gut, and hook themselves, as they ere when it was correctly placed.

mad rise of this description occurs so Idom—once during a season if as often—ie is apt to lose one's head and commit is, and on this occasion I opened up thently that half of my fishing bag is reserved for my lunch. Into this I do as I caught them, eight trout dripping over water, and the hail driving in the opening accomplished the rest.

that

By Major C. S. JARVIS

When I sat down, hungry and weary, to a late lunch after the rise had finished, my sandwiches were a soggy mess floating in 2 ins. of fish slime and melting slush. The whisky flask with its screw stopper had escaped the general ruin, and had therefore to play the dual part of food and drink, and this reminds me of the two Scotsmen who went for a day's fishing on a Highland loch. One was detailed to provide the lunch, while the other arranged for the boat, and when the lunch was unpacked at midday it was found to consist of a dozen bottles of beer, two bottles of whisky and half the top of a loaf of bread.

"That's all right, isn't it?" asked the lunch provider, noticing that the other was looking at the spread dubiously.

"Oh. aye—it's right enough, I suppose. I'm only wondering what we're going to do with all that bread!"

LL my life I have been reading fishing articles and books, and endeavouring to get some idea as to the conditions under which a hatch of fly may be expected, and now I am coming to the conclusion that the only time when an abnormal mass of insects occurs is during a freak of weather which, according to the rules, should exclude all possibility of flies hatching. March Browns, Olives and other small flies which come forth in the early spring, are such fragile little atoms, and, "with so much to do and so little time to do it in," live their short lives at the mercy of the elements and between the Scylla of the birds and the Charybdis of the fish, that it would be thought Nature would see to it they emerged from the comparative safety of the water to more or less calm and reasonable weather. On the contrary the poor little fragments seems invariably to be launched into the world on the worst spring day of the year, and the worst spring day is usually something infinitely worse than anything the winter has produced.

IN his witty foreword to Middle East Window, by Humphrey Bowman, Sir Ronald Storrs makes some very apt remarks about

peculiar form snobbishness takes in Egypt, for in that country officials are graded socially according to the branch of the service to which they happen to belong. Right at the bottom of the list is Education, or P.I.—Public Instruction as it was called in Cromer's daysand to quote Sir Ronald it was graded with the Scavenging Department "perhaps." the reasons for this was that all the young men who came out to Egypt from England to serve as Government officials were first employed in Education, and were afterwards drafted to other departments-Finance. Interior and Police -according to their qualifications. The obvious result of this was that those who remained were branded with the stigma of being unfit for anything else, and this was neither in the best interests of the social standing of Public Instruction nor the well-being of the public they were to instruct.

Middle East Window is the autobiography of Bowman, who was the exception to the general rule as he preferred to remain in P.I., refused to accept a post elsewhere and rose eventually to direct education in that country of warring sects and religions—the Promised Land. The book, a most interesting and entertaining one, deals with his early life in Egypt and the Sudan, and later in Irak and Palestine during the most difficult periods of the 'twenties and 'thirties.

THE great attraction of the East is the numerous humorous episodes that occur, and are caused sometimes by the impact of the Occident on the Orient and sometimes by the extraordinary idiosyncrasies of the British officials. Mr. Bowman relates many of the best, but he has overlooked the P.I. story of a senior official in Egypt, who was recognised as being the world's finest snob and tuft-hunter. At the Turf Club in Cairo he was seen only with the most refulgent members of the Government, preferably those with titles, and whenever any well-known personality arrived in the country on a visit there used to be a sweepstake in the Club on the length of time it would take for Cairo's snob to make his acquaintance.

Cairo's snob to make his acquaintance.

One day in the Turf Club the tuft-hunter, who was sitting with a well-known Irish "legpuller" of the Service, saw a rather badly-dressed young man reading the Reuter's telegrams on the board and, thinking he looked rather out of place in his surroundings, asked

who he was.

"That? Oh, that's young Lord Kilkenny,

the Marquis of Kerry's son, you know. He's just arrived out here to do a job at the

Residency.

A few minutes later the tuft-hunter was seen to be reading the telegrams alongside the young "peer," and next moment they were in conversation. Then they withdrew to a side table for drinks and, the friendship advancing rapidly, they eventually dined together to the unholy joy of every member of the Club, for each was informed immediately he entered the building why Cairo's most exclusive snob was entertaining the newest-joined member of the despised P.I., who had recently come to the country from an obscure university in the Midlands.

THE abolition of the basic petrol ration at the end of June will raise a serious problem for commanders of Home Guard units, as in country districts, where the members of the

Force are a widely scattered community, the rapid mustering of the company is dependent largely on the use of private cars. Even for training purposes the use of these vehicles is essential, since considerable distances have to be covered by members in the short space of time available after their day's work is over.

Under the "G" licence system a limited

Under the "G" licence system a limited number of Home Guardsmen are relieved of the cost of an ordinary licence, and are allowed a small contribution towards the running costs of their cars. This "G" licence system is unpopular for two reasons: first, because a car so licensed may be used for Home Guard purposes only, and a "G" licensee may not even carry a passenger unless it be another Guardsman on duty; and second, the allowance made for running expenses is not sufficient to cover the cost of upkeep. In the company in which I serve there are very few "G" licences for these reasons, and the unit is dependent for its mobility on those motoring members

who keep their cars on the road at their own expense, but who place them at the disposal of the Home Guard whenever required.

If there is to be no basic petrol ration at all for private motoring, these cars will be laid up, for it is asking rather a lot of a relatively poor man to expect him to keep his car in commission, and subject it to the severe wear and tear of Home Guard usage, with no compensation in the form of being able to take his wife into the village for her week's shopping or fetching the children from school. The solution of the problem would seem to lie in the allowance of a small basic ration of petrol for private purposes to members of the Home Guard, who will sign a form in which they guarantee to place their vehicles at the disposal of their units whenever required. Only by these means shall we retain the services of the many private cars now employed in training and routine work, and the use of which, as it seems to me, will be absolutely essential in an emergency.

THE QUIET HILL-TOPS OF CUMBERLAND

By DOREEN WALLACE

HERE is more than one part of Great Britain which says "Home" to me. My family inhabits Galloway (I am a very proud Scot), and by marriage I have become an East Anglian in part. But I

was born and spent my youth in Cumberland.

Is not the accepted psychological theory
"Give me the first seven years of a child's life
and I will mould him; you can do what you
like with the rest; you will not change him"?

I do not entirely subscribe to that theory, for it seems to me that the second seven years are more formative than the first; however, in my case Cumberland had both the first and the second.

Cumberland moulded me. I was an only child, left much to my own devices, for in those days there was not the constant getting about which we now enjoy—or did until the petrol restrictions were imposed. Far more distinctly than my very few child-acquaintances I remember the natural features of my vast

playground.

The small child has a restricted view. My first friends were the innumerable delicate little spleenworts and parsley-ferns that grew in every cranny of the grey walls of Lorton village, and the large bland-faced dog-violets that filled the verges of the roads. A very flowery country is that north-west corner of England, thanks in part to its rainfall. After the dog-violets comes a riotous luxuriance of honeysuckle, dog-rose, meadow-sweet, campion, ragged-robin—and heavens, the foxgloves!

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In any piece of woodland untouched by the Forestry Commission, any natural-growing copse of scrub-oak, the tree-trunks rise from a purple sea of foxgloves. On higher ground there are heather, ling, harebells, sundew, cotton-grass, oak-fern among the screes and the fascinating stag-horn moss on exposed turf. The very turf is fragrant with sheep-cropped thyme and set with tiny jewels of flowers whose names I never learned. For eating there are blackberries in the valleys and blaeberries on the fells. Oh, a good country for childhood!

As my legs lengthened, so did my view. I became a fox-hunter. The hunting is done on foot in the mountains. The technique of all but the very hardiest is to climb to a range of tops, thus saving much scrambling up and down, and to follow the line of the hunt from a distance, with the hope that eventually the fox will come for refuge to one of the well-known high borrans to which the canny walker directs his steps.

directs his steps.

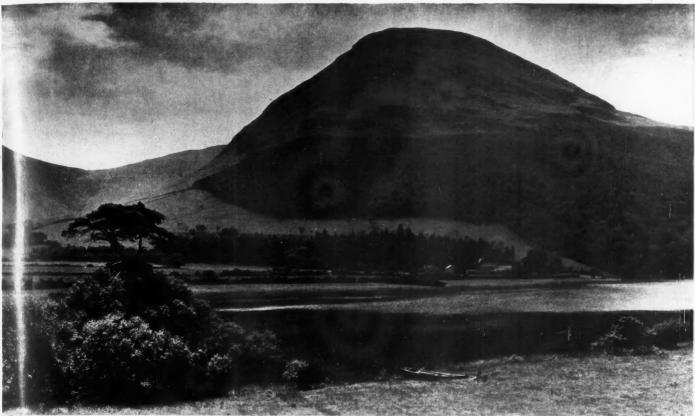
Going is fairly easy on the tops, the great heads being usually linked to one another by gentle switchbacks of fine turf. Somewhere, down below, or along the fells on the other side of the valley, tiny dappled hounds can be seen working, with or without a huntsman. Their music when the scenting is good resounds from hill to hill like a pealing of wild bells. If one can sit on a fell-top, full-fed with sandwiches, content with sunshine and exertion, and think of nothing but killing a fox, one is a clod indeed.

The great hills billow out for miles like the wave-crests of a stormy ocean turned to stone (I believe I am quoting from one of my own books here, but I can find no other simile that will do), and beyond the petrified ocean is the real one, bland and smiling; beyond that again are the hills of Galloway. One is cat to



G. P. Abraham

THE NEW MOTOR ROAD THROUGH HONISTER PASS



British Council

LOWESWATER, ONE OF THE LEAST KNOWN OF THE LAKES In the background is Blake Fell (1,900ft.)

of the world, literally and figuratively. Those who have the good fortune to live in Cumber-land can be on top of the world whenever they like, given that they are sound in wind

Two more things Cumberland taught me, besides the huge invigoration of getting above one's surroundings. One, that there is nothing intrinsically unpleasant about rain—the unpleasantness is when one is wrongly dressed and worrying about one's hair and stockings; the other, the joy of solitude. One can walk for miles there without seeing a person or even

Now there is much to be said for solitude. Folk spend far too much time in idle chatter about their servants, their families, the weather and food, to name only a few of the topics that clutter up the valuable waking hours of this short life. When one is alone one can't be talking. Instead, one observes, thinks and

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I am not suggesting that the average person contributes greatly to the destiny of mankind by eschewing all company in order to "think great thoughts"; but I do suggest that it is infinitely more amusing for the person himself to be free to use his eyes, to follow up a train of thought and to give himself up to the sheer pleasure of being in beautiful surroundings, than to have half his mind taken up with the necessity of saying "Oh yes. Oh no. How nice: How tiresome for you: How perfectly right you were!" in the proper places.

For my own part it was solitude that began in me the polytic for relaining up actories which

in me the habit of making up stories which later developed to such an extent that I have

even been able, somewhat to my surprise, to make money out of it.

When I write Cumberland I mean West Cumberland, where the lakes are. True, there are lakes also in Westmorland and Lancashire, but Cumberland has the most and, in my opinion, the most picturesque. With the exception of the southern end of Ullswater, which is very grand, Cumberland has the wildest and rockiest of the scenery, the other two counties making up in peace and two counties making up in peace and verdure what hey lack in sublimity.

Further, except in the Keswick region,

Cumberland is not so overrun with trippers in

summer as its neighbours; though, when all's said and done, what are a few trippers in a solitude so vast? We lived for some years in Lorton Vale on the way to Crummock and Buttermere, and for some other years in the Vale of St. John with Keswick as our market-We never saw a tripper except on those well-beaten tracks where we ourselves did not want to go. When last I revisited the district, there were certainly more chars-à-bancs thundering about the main roads, but there was as solitude as ever.

The trippers' arterial way runs from Lancashire, through Ambleside, Grasmere, Rydal and over Dunmail Raise to Keswick; by that road also go the plutocrat motorists who must have good food at a large hotel at every stop. They do not seriously disturb the pleasure of the natives, the walkers and the unplutocratic motorists. Some of the lakes are almost free from invasion-Ennerdale and Wast

Water because they are not on a round trip to anywhere, Loweswater because few people know of its existence. And the two beauties, Crummock and Buttermere, are more frequently visited by natives than by outsiders, in spite of the opening of Honister Pass as a motor road. On its Buttermere side it is by no means the best of motor roads.

I am not one of those who resent the intrusion of cars to the Lake District. Those who live there do not spend their time walking about in shorts, either in reverent silence or conversing loudly of Wordsworth or what not; they lead normal lives, and they have naturally used cars to shorten distances. It is only the holiday-maker of the high-brow sort who rails against petrol-driven vehicles in the place where he wants to commune with his gods.

My view is that since cars are confined to roads there is still plenty of space for the most



G. P. Abraham

LORTON VILLAGE—PRACTICALLY UNSPOILED

"As pretty in its way as any half-timbered beauty-spot of the south; and its surroundings are more beautiful"



CRUMMOCK: "MORE FREQUENTLY VISITED BY NATIVES THAN BY OUTSIDERS"

say I. Moreover, I don't think a car is intrinsically uglier than a hairy-kneed hiker. There is, of course, much more of Cumberland than its lakeland portion. The eastern side of it is made of great high moors of lime stone character, a different formation from the steep rocky fells which seem to rise sheer from the The northern coast is flattish, ru ming down to the long sands of Solway and the estuary of the Esk; as the coastline comes down southwards it is smudged with the Hackness of coal towns. There is no part of the county that s not beautiful, except the slum streets of some of the coal towns and the lodging-house rchitecture of a certain resort I have in aind. Truly it is a county where "every prespect pleases, and only man is vile"; and even man is not so very vile, for he is but thinly scattered

among the pleasing prospects. One does not go to Cumberland to look for architectural gems. Its churches, for the most part, have suffered from tactless restoration in the last century, having fallen into ruin

reverent (or opinionated, or superior, or what you will) to seek silence and spiritual uplift. could guarantee to find peace in half an hour's climbing, were there a Seven Lakes Tour from Manchester and a regular procession of private cars on the roads below. Live and let live



FOX-HUNTING IS DONE ON FOOT BY THE BLENCATHRA "Their music when the scenting is good resounds from hill to hill like a pealing of wild bells"



G. P. Abraham

THE NATIVE COTTAGE IS BUILT OF NATIVE STONE Walls are often enlivened by washes of white or pink



BARROW FALLS

The ceaseless noise of running water is an unforgettable memory of the Lake District

through the poverty of the country. There are, however, some very lovely and characteristic farms, cottages, and "great houses" developed from farms.

The native cottage or small farm is built of great blocks of native stone and roofed with what might be called either thick slat s or thin-split stone, on which moss and stone-crops grow plentifully. Outside stone staircases are common where the houses run to two storeys. The grey stone walls may be enlivened by washes of white or pink.

My village of Lorton, practically unspoiled still, is as pretty in its firm, solid way as any half-timbered beauty-spot of the south, and its surroundings are more beautiful.

I have said nothing of becks and water alls, the ceaseless noise of running water in the valleys which one misses so much in flat Zast Anglia, nothing of mountain sheep or of the war against the Forestry Commission. I'd need a volume to say all that I would wish to say about my county.

THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING

ALWAYS like balm," she said, nipping off a sprig. "It smells even when it's dead.

'Most things do!" he replied, with iry laugh.

She is my aunt who writes racy letters, sed with apt quotations, about the books she cading, the habits of her evacuees and the her garden grows. He was a clod whose le I have forgotten. But his remark blighted then as the war blights most of us now

hen as the war bights most of us now. Not always, though. For only last week an al came to our headquarters to discuss any petrol supplies. Having polished off pusiness he walked over to my wall map, with details of coast defence, dismissed st 2,000 years of history in five minutes, and launched forth on beaker men, long and d barrows, megalithic culture and pagan

He talked of castles, which began as hen-ring temples of the sun, built by gangs en with no other tools but antler picks and her-blade shovels. He talked of the old nerged forest on whose peaty remains my had stood that very morning while waves kled and splashed round our feet and a sh from the Pole sang over the sand. Fighters, ng out on a sweep, were clearing their on the pale humped sandbanks; sea birds, we and migrant, filled the air with their but deep down under our feet lay the crien:

durab unheeding bones of mammoth and red deer, ichthyosaurus and dinosaur and other monsters which were man's main source of food and clothing, weapons and tools and ornaments scores of thousands of years ago.

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LONDON TREES

 $P^{ROUDLY}_{Stabbing\ Cockaigne's\ grey\ shroud\ with\ a}$ spear of hope,

Disdaining man's vain palaces; secure
In the imperturbable ebb and flood of sap
That woos the fluttering leaves—and then deserts For autumn gales to garner in their sport. Here, from soot-blackened, half-forgotten soil, The poised asymmetry of soaring elm And spreading plane reach for the urban sun; There a sweet almond, with its trembling blush Forerunning even may's white fragrant foam; And many others, lovely in summer's green, Or bare, black tracery of winter's dearth.

Friendly they stand, The London trees, telling the wistful soul Of other ways, green-bordered, where the heart Beats to the measure of creation's pulse, Where free winds freshen the unrestricted air And toil is but a pact with the pregnant earth.

H. J. D. MURTON.

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Thus was the face of the map changed for But quite as revealingly did another man change the atmosphere of a village I reached very early one Sunday morning to umpire a Home Guard exercise. The village green lay striped in sunlight, all innocent of life but for ducks on the pond and this patriarch standing bareheaded under the maypole, book in hand. Suddenly he began to shout to the cottagers sleeping behind their shuttered windows. phrase only I caught, hurled at my back as I phrase only I caught, hurled at my back as I slipped in through the doctor's gate and made for the Home Guard headquarters. "It's no good giving the boys and girls gasbags," he bawled. "What they want is trust in the Lord their God!" His strident comminatory voice seemed to strike the blue lark-echoing sky, and zip down in jagged splinters all over the doctor's lilacs and shady chestnuts and dewy dais a flecked lawn. From that moment the daisy-flecked lawn. From that moment the sy beauty of dawn, sweet with May scents lispelled. For out there, on the green, stood an reincarnate rousing his neighbours and hing a Holy War.

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After the exercise I went to look at the olc' rick church round which the fighting had The porch, with its perpendicular ws and coats of arms in the spandrels,

had a Tudor summer-house appearance which consorted well with the lawns and yew hedges and tall twisted chimneys of the nearby Hall. I opened the door and the first thing I saw was the font, covered by a slender canopy beautifully carved and picked out in blue and gold. A child would have said it reached halfway to heaven, and indeed it did prick the latticed sky seen through the clerestory windows. child's eyes, too, would have fixed on the small padlocked door at its base, especially christenings, when the door was open and the parson did something with water inside.

The church itself was as rare a piece of

workmanship as this canopied font. Lofty and sunlit and smelling of soap and polish, it seemed, with its white walls and glowing fragments of mediæval glass, its unstained pews and Jacobean pulpit, the very essence of light—as if some wise mason had measured and cut a block of sunlight out of eternity and walled it in with the best of wood and stone and glass his craftsmen could produce.

No wonder the Cavalier widow who composed the epitaph for her husband's tomb in their private chapel, after contrasting the joy of ever-returning sunrise with the sorrow of human life that returns not, should have ended with these four lines

Not less does she, who rais'd this tomb And wishes here to have a room With that dear He, who underneath doth lye, Who was the treasure of her heart, the pleasure of her eye.

Happy pair, their love here commemorated, now sharing eternal sunrise! We who are fighting for life to-day can only beckon and beg Time to give us a chance to live and love when the war shall be over and earth be purged of a beastliness undreamt of by any beast, but practised by men who claim to be supermen.

Dangerous folk, supermen, whatever their breed, for they let loose a Machiavellian flood they cannot control. Of this we were ironically reminded at a showing one night, in the local cinema, of Major Barbara. Andrew Undershaft was explaining how the profits from his armaments factories were wisely spent on his workers' welfare, when suddenly over his face and the background of model flats he had built was flashed the legend AIR RAID WARNING and above his suave voice rose the wail of the sirens. He plugged manfully on against the hideous noise, while Barbara peered through the blood-red letters as a captive creature looks through bars of a cage. But the warning won.
After the show was over I stood for a time

on the cliffs, mentally roused by the Shavian challenge, physically aware of gunfire growling up the coast and searchlights sweeping the sky. The wind was keen as a sword and the stars a glittering numberless host. It was the sort of night to listen for that celestial music Holst heard and put into his *Planets*, or the crystal music of snow and ice a climber hears in his cloud-wrapped world. To me in my present mood no music came, only the memory of a child's remark. He was my aunt's six-year-old Cockney evacuee. He whispered: "Awntie, I love you up to the furthest planet and back again!"

In that confiding whisper lay a weapon stronger than any forged in factory, a dream unbroken by bombs because it is deathless, a love as fiery as that which filled Puritan Bunyan, Royalist widow, Salvationist Barbara, and millions more who to-day, in the smouldering ruins of their homes, are telling each other

WHAT IS A BUTTER-WITCH?

By A. JOBSON

UFFOLK has evolved for itself one of the most picturesque of vocabularies, enriched probably, by its proximity to the Continent and the fact that so many of its sons have been sailors. Nowhere is its descriptive power more apparent than in its relation to the garden and the fields. For example, could one describe better a serpentine garden wall as being crinkle-crankle, or a blackberry bush as a cock-brumble? And who else but a Suffolker would have thought of a woman as being as-smart-as-a-carrot? or twilight as being closing or shutting-in time? And what of this to indicate the approach of stormy weather: "Ta rooks be windin' oop ta clock," describing their circling movements?

The names of insects, birds and flowers have been kindly dealt with. An earwig is an arrawiggle, a chrysanthemum a christy-anthem, a Shrew mouse a ranny; titty-reen and jinny-reen stand for the Golden-crested and Common wren respectively, and King Harry is a gold-finch. A weed which grows with and kills the clover is described as clover-doddy, while a butter-witch is a cock-chafer.

Who could better Jacob as a name applied to the toad, or more fitly describe the church-yard than as the mole country? A kiss-behind-thegarden-gate is a wildflower, a poppel tree a poplar, periwinkle pin-patches, while a fresher But what of Roger's blast for a sudden whirl-wind—"Thar goo Roger's blast acrost ta fild a twizzlin' ta barley"? I would wager a hazard that this Roger was no other than the Bigod of that name. And could you better shepherd's sundial for the scarlet pimpernel?

A cruden-barrow is a wheel-barrow, a muddscuppit a mud shovel, skep a basket and crome a stick with a crook, while the extra piece of wood to make the kettle boil is known as a kittle-wedge—"That'll mak' a rare kittle-wedge." A heavy downpour is called a dinging

rain, but a drizzle is only titley-weather.

A pip-man is the name for the smallest pig in the litter, while the wickle-poke was the

bag in which the labourer carried his dinner. Hulver is the holly, but to be hog-jawed is to have a protruding lower lip. A small piece of land is a pightel—a very old word. A little pool of water is a pulk. A stolen load is one gathered hastily in the face of threatening weather, but a statesman is not the accepted person of that type, but a landowner.

Who but a Suffolker with the sea in his

veins would describe a mariner on a canal or in a wherry as a turnpike-sailor A sleep with one eye open is a fox-sleep. Fletchets are the young pods of green peas and pusket the peas in maturity. A ditch is a haw, holl or hull—"Hie thee i' ta holl, bor! Hinder a dow" (Here comes a wood-pigeon). Haysel is the time of hay-making, but stover is clover hay. Sel or sele used to be a common expression—
"The seal o' the day to you," meaning goodmorning or good-night. But what of morphadite for a wagon formed by joining two carts together?

Mawkin is a scarecrow, but mawther is a big girl, and if she is stupid or "ongain" she is half-rocked-"She be fare half-rocked; must ha' sucked the silly side o' her mother." Darnicks were hedging-gloves, but flash is to trim a hedge lightly. Dag means a fog or mist, and hobby-lantern a will-o'-the-wisp. Hen'snose-full describes a small quantity-"Tant norn morn'n an ole hen's nose full.'

The pump is not without its uses both to convey water and act as interpreter: "Ma hid dew fare like a pomp, Ma back is as hull as a

The horkey-supper was that of Harvest Home, at which this was the principal toast:

Here's a health to our master, The lord of the Feast. God bless his endeavours, And send him increase; And prosper his crop
That we may reap another yearHere's a health to our Master,
Come! drink of his beer.

Allied with the horkey-supper was the horkeyload, the last load of harvest.

THE WONDERFUL HUMMING-BIRD

By FRANK W. LANE

HUMMING-BIRD is born from an egg the size of a pea laid in a nest no bigger than a plum. The nest is composed of mosses and soft vegetable down felted together and thickly covered with lichens bound by reels of cobweb cable. The nest of a Black-chinned humming-bird is a supreme example of bird architecture. It is semiglobular in shape and deeply hollowed. The rim curves inwards and thus prevents either eggs or young from falling out as the supporting twigs or weeds sway in the wind. Sometimes the smaller twigs composing the fork on which the nest is built are worked into the walls and thus securely anchor the nest.

The hen bird works on the shaping of the nest like a master potter moulding clay. Twirling tremulously round the sides she shapes it to her fancy. Sometimes her body bounces up and down as if she were kneading the floor of the nest with her toes. Then, sitting on the rim, she leans over and, with the same tremulous motion, smooths the outside of the nest with her bill.

A remarkable feature of the nest is its elasticity. It resembles a fine, small sponge, and after being squeezed it springs back to its former shape. Commenting on the sponge-like quality of the nest, Bayard H. Christy writes: "As the young continue to grow a beautiful contrivance comes into play; the surrounding wall of the nest becomes as it were a living integument about the chicks; it expands with their growth; its rim yields to their little strugglings; its sphere opens like a flower-bud; until the little birds, all but ready to take flight, remain resting upon the full-blown corolla."

Normal nesting sites are in trees, vines and bushes. One bird built on a climbing vine on a granite cliff face within a few feet of the occupied nest of a Golden eagle. Sometimes the dry roots projecting from upturned trees are used Occasionally a feather-weight nest will be slung from the end of a tall fern. One humming-bird nested 12,000ft. up on the side of a volcano.

Nearly all humming-birds lay only two eggs and sometimes 48 hours elapse between the laying of the first and second. With the laying of the second egg the male usually departs, leaving a widow with prospective twins on her hands.

When it emerges from its pearl-like egg a humming-bird looks like a black caterpillar. It is naked except for two lines of smoky fuzz down its back. A squat, yellowish bulge is the only indication of the rapier-like beak that adorns the adult bird. For the first few days of its life the humming-bird lies stretched on the bottom of the nest until its growing size forces it to raise its head against the sides.

Such a sight acts like magic on the mother. She forages far and near for spiders, insects and nectar and returns at frequent intervals to the nest. Standing on the edge of the nest, with her tail braced against its side, the mother bird cranes her neck until her long beak is poised above the wide-open mouth of her young. Then, with a violent thrust that looks as if she is stabbing it to the heart, she plunges her needle bill to its hilt into her offspring's vitals. A weird wrestling match follows. To the accompaniment of violent gesticulations on the part of the mother and wriggles and squirms from the young the pre-digested fluid is pumped in.

In addition to "forcible feeding" some

In addition to "forcible feeding" some humming-birds give their young a form of massage. Writing of the Ruby-throated humming-bird C. E. Bendire says: "It was noticeable that, while sitting upon the young, she kept up an almost incessant motion, as if seeking to warm them, or perhaps to develop their muscles by a kind of massage treatment. Possibly, as human infants get exercise by dandling on the mother's knee, the baby humming-bird gets his by this parental kneading process."

As the result of such food and treatment the young hummers swiftly reach the adult stage. In the case of the Ruby-throat the young are sometimes as big as their parents in 12 days. The rapid growth is equalled by the

amazing transformation which the young

undergo.

The natal covering cracks open and small pin change the feathers grubby black caterpillar-like form into a nondescript tiny porcupine. A few days later downy feathers begin to blossom, the bulge becomes a beak and the leaden skin on the protruding eye-sockets cracks open to reveal the eyes. The time from the cracking of the egg to the departure from the nest is three weeks to a month.

The young humming-bird indulges in considerable wing-practice before it leaves the nest. Sometimes it will move its wings in slow motion and then suddenly switch into high gear. All this exercise develops and co-ordinates the wings so well that when the bird takes off for its first flight it exhibits at once that mastery of the air for which its race is famed.

What words can describe the full glories



THE HUMMING-BIRD STANDS ON AIR TO FEED FROM A TUBULAR FLOWER

From this hovering position a backward flight is made

of an adult humming-bird? Even the severest scientific description becomes lyrical when it attempts such a task. "Living prism," "flying rainbow," "jewel on wings," "a feathered ball of fire," "a rainbow shimmer, a gleam of ruby and emerald, a flicker of turquoise, a glint of topaz"—these are the words men use when humming-birds are the subject of their writing. It is small wonder, for where else will so much loveliness be found concentrated in a living mite 3ins. long from needle beak to tip of tail?

The Ruby-throat is whitish brown below and burnished, sparkling green above. At first sight its throat is coal black, but as it turns into the full rays of the sun its gorget flickers into brilliant flame. It flashes back the sun's light—now a deep, glowing orange, then a hard metallic coral—and as the bird makes a slight movement the fire in its breast dies down and

is gone.

In view of the fondness shown by hummingbirds throughout their range for honey-producing flowers, and because their stomachs are smaller and their livers larger in proportion to their bodies than those of other birds, it used to be thought that they lived exclusively on nectar. But examinations of stomach contents have shown that this liquid is by no means their only fare. The stomach of one hummingbird was found to contain some grasshoppers, one spider, one fly, and several other insect remains.

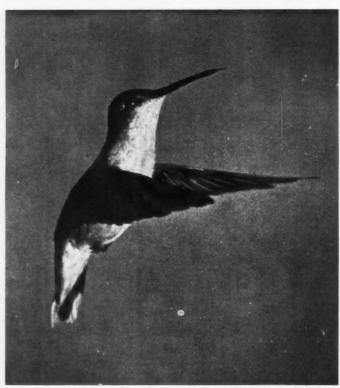
Although feeding largely from insects and spiders, humming-birds certainly consume nectar as well. In fact they are particularly well adapted for probing the honeyed hearts of flowers. Their mastery of hovering flight enables them to maintain the best position for extracting the nectar. The extremely long, thin bill is the ideal instrument for thrusting deep into the flower. The long, forked tongue, which can be extended as far again as the bill, divides into two cylindrical tubes, and it is through these that the nectar is sucked up.

And, as Dr. William Bebe says, no greater miracle has ever been wrought than the alchemy which can translate this mixture of insects, spiders and wild honey into a living atom of a feathered dynamo, hurl it hither and you through hundreds of days and thousands of miles and endow it with a frenzy of courtship and a depth of passion which is unsurpassed

in the whole realm of Nature.

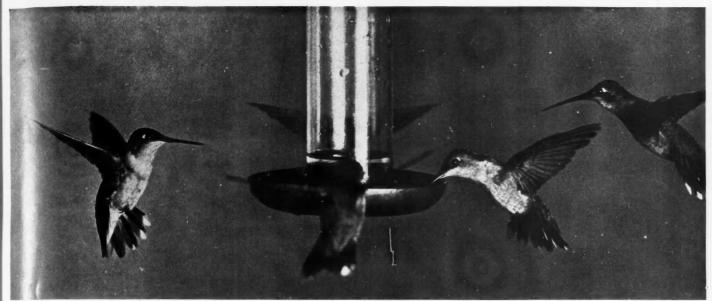
It is during the courting season that the tremendously vital lives of humming-birds are at the zenith. Two strikingly different modes of courtship are practised. One is the "static" in which the male takes his stand and untiring y sends forth a rather melancholy love-note in the hope of attracting a passing female. The second form of wooing is the "dynamic," in which the male, to dazzle and win a mate, gives aerial displays which are without parallel in the avian world.

In many of these courtship flights the male wins his mate by dive-bombing her. The towers to a height of 60ft, or 70ft, then shows



Edgerton, Germeshausen & Grier, Cambridge, Mass.

HIGH-SPEED PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWS THE FLYING HUMMING-BIRD IN THIS STRANGE POSITION The wings beat many times faster than those of any other bird



Edgerton, Germeshausen & Grier, Cambridge, Mass.

AN ZING POWERS OF AERIAL CONTROL ENABLE THE HUMMING-BIRD TO FLING ITS 3-IN. BODY IN ANY DIRECTION The tail facilitates lightning manœuvres; it is capable of almost any adjustment

down in a breath-taking power-dive towards the perching female. The rapidly vibrating wines, combined with the terrific speed at which the tiny body hurtles downwards, causes a shrill whistle which reaches its peak as the feathered bullet flashes past the female and zooms upwards to complete an immense U around his would-be mate. He then repeats the whole thrilling display two or three times without a pause.

Only the most expert flying insects can rival the humming-bird in mastery of the air. In fact, on the wing a humming-bird often looks far more like an overgrown insect than

a bird.

Several factors make the humming-bird such a marvellously efficient aeronaut. The compact, streamlined body, from rapier-like beak to short, powerful tail, is the perfect instrument for cleaving air with the minimum of resistance. The tail is capable of almost any adjustment, fanning, furling, raising, lowering, swivelling at the bird's will. It facilitates the lightning aerial manœuvres of which the humming-bird is such a master.

To support the wings, the bone and muscles of the breast are enormously developed—they are in fact colossal in proportion to the body. The wings themselves are well shaped for fast movement and beat many times faster than those of any other bird.

The power necessary to drive such a tremendously high-geared engine is obviously enormous. The pulse rate of a humming-bird is 1,400 per minute—some 20 times faster than that of a human being! Small wonder that a humming-bird is constantly refuelling its tiny "engine." Captive humming-birds feed, during daylight, at least once every 10 minutes. But—and this is yet another of the achievements that are constantly met with in these amazing birds—some specimens are able to store enough fuel to make a 500-mile non-stop flight across the Gulf of Mexico!

With such splendid apparatus for flying, so powerful and supercharged an "engine" to drive it and such a constant supply of concentrated fuel, it is no wonder that the humming bird is such a master of flight.

ordinary cinematographic camera can "freeze" wings which beat 75 times a second, or six times faster than the wing-beat of a English sparrow. But by s cial high-speed cinematographic technique developed at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Reichsstelle für den Unterrichtsfilm even wings beating at this tremendous speed have been made to stand still and to show their action in slow motion.

Examination of the American and German films has brought to light some remarkable facts. On each downward or backward stroke the wings turn completely, so that they are actually upside down. During hovering, the wing-tips of the Ruby-throat move at the rate of 20 miles an hour. When taking-off, the bird is in flight before it leaves its perch (the take-off lasts 0.07 seconds) and pulls the perch after it a little way.

Dr. Charles H. Blake, who examined Dr. Edgerton's films made at the M.I.T., found that the Ruby-throated humming-bird beats its wings 55 times (completed strokes) a second when hovering, 61 times a second when backing, and 75 times a second in normal flight. It is thought that if the camera could keep the bird in focus an even higher figure would be obtained, as the bird increases its speed in straightforward flight.

There is not much reliable information on the speeds reached by humming-birds. In view of the great difficulties of timing such flying atoms of living quicksilver this lack of information is not surprising. H. A. Allard, however, says that when he was making a fast car trip a Ruby-throat flew parallel to his course as if deliberately racing him. Judged by the car speedometer (admittedly not an ideal instrument for timing the speed of a bird) that tiny bird, weighing but a couple of grams, flew at between 55 and 60 miles an hour.

But it is neither the speed of its wings nor the rate at which it can hurl its body through the air that is the most remarkable feature of the humming-bird's flight. It is the bird's amazing power of aerial control, which enables it to fling its body in any direction or just hang on invisible wings motionless in space.

Robert S. Woods, a keen student and photographer of North American humming-birds, makes the following statements on the Anna's humming-bird's power of aerial control. "Some of the earlier ornithologists suggested that the humming-bird's withdrawal from the depths of a tubular flower was accomplished by a forward flirt of the tail. A little careful observation would soon remove any scepticism as to its ability easily to fly backward, sidewise or in any other direction. While the tail is rhythmically vibrated forward and backward as the bird probes the flower, it can be seen that its movements are not at all related to the backward flight, and that it is, in fact, seldom widely opened."

The White-eared humming-bird's mode of entering and leaving its nest provides a good illustration of flight control in action. Most birds on returning to their nests alight on the rim or branch and hop or walk on to the eggs. But the White-ear flies directly into the nest and settles naturally on the eggs, and as the wings are folded the bird is immediately at rest.

Most birds when leaving the nest step off the eggs and take-off from the rim. Not so the White-eared humming-bird. While still sitting on the eggs it spreads its wings, vibrates them rapidly and rises directly into the air. Sometimes it flies upward and backward until clear of the nest and then quickly reverses, shoots forward and in an instant is away.

I acknowledge indebtedness to Bulletin No. 176 of the U.S. National Museum, edited by Arthur Cleveland Bent, for help in the preparation of this article.



THE FEMALE COSTA HUMMING-BIRD AT THE NEST Normal sites for nests are trees, vines and bushes



1.—THE EASTERN SIDE LOOKING UP THE MILL POND

A MILL HOUSE ON THE KENNET



2.—FROM BESIDE THE FRONT DOOR: THE KENNET RUSHING FROM UNDER THE HOUSE

Sir George Usher, a keen fisherman, rebuilt Tyle Mill, Berkshire, on the foundations of an ancient watermill from designs by Mr. A. S. G. Butler

HE war has brought back a certain amount of grist to those country mills that are still in working order. Previously a number of watermills had been converted into residences for keen fishermen, and fascinating houses they make. Several have recently been described in these pages, notably Southington Mill on the upper Test, reconstructed for Sir Thomas Dunhill by Mr. Oliver Hill, and Wiston Mill, in Suffolk for Mr. Gordon Meggy done by Mr. A. S. G. Butler. The latter has also been responsible for the much more elaborate reconstruction of Tyle Mill, in 1937-38, for Mr., now Sir, George Usher. In this case it was not a matter of adapting picturesque old buildings, since they no longer existed—having been destroyed by fire in 1914. But all the sluices, weirs and substructures remained, and the new house has been built on the old platform spanning the mill stream.

Tyle Mill stands on the Kennet between Theale and Aldermaston. Both the Kennet-Avon canal and the Great Western Railway pass near it. So it is nowadays almost on three east-west traffic arteries, of which the Bath Road has made the villages on the left bank of the river the more important. But the first mill to be built here belonged to the right bank manor of Sulhampstead Bannister, one of the settlements that, with Padworth, Ufton Nervet, and Burghfield, grew up round the site of Silchester, the Romans' Calleva Atrebatum. Then the road to the west kept to the high heathy ground south of the river. When the men of Sulhampstead thrust a nill out into marshy river they looked across not fertile pastures but a barrier of roor and mere, only beginning to be reclair ed, that almost cut them off from the traffic between Newbury and Reading along the dry ground beyond. Tyle Mill does not appear to have existed at the time of the Domesday Survey, but no doubt it came nto existence fairly soon afterwards. Its n me probably derives from the presence of buckearth nearby and the making of tills-



THE WEST SIDE OF THE HOUSE ROM ACROSS THE MAIN STREAM BELOW THE WEIR

which were used for roofing, when available, long before the making of bricks was re-established.

But the great days of the mill would have been in the eighteenth century, when the neighbourhood was turned increasingly to arable farming. Most of the surviving mills on the Kennet are of that period, some of them lofty, many-windowed, brick buildings, which denotes their use as granaries as well.

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This is the general character given to the new house (Fig. 1). Mr. Butler, with his experience of other mill-houses, has incorporated into the design various features of mill construction in its heyday, aptly interpreted into terms of a dwelling-house. The white weather-boarded centre with sash windows represents the mill proper; the brick wing with latticed casements and dormers, the miller's house. On the other side (Fig. 5), along the terrace walk in which the miller regulated his sluices, and by which the wagons came bringing grain or taking away the sacks of flour, the motif of a hoist is used to give an overhanging bay window.

The construction posed a good many technical problems. Though the substructure is the old one, with the passages through for the water, a reinforced concrete raft was put over it and pegged down to the bank at each end. The external walls throughout are of 16-in. cavity brick, the idiomatic weather-boarding being applied to it. Very elaborate sound-deadening was also necessary to suppress the noise of the river rushing through the five tunnels under the house, and there were, of course, very peculiar difficulties with drains and their disposal, due to the levels and possible contamination.

The house consists of a main range astride the river, facing east and west, the approach being along the left bank of the mill pond from the east; and a short office wing at right angles to its north end. The er rance is beneath a "drive through" at the north end, beneath which is also housed the gun-room opposite the front door. A back door to the kitchen is screened by a projecting wall, also sheltering the booten. Cloak-room, pantry, and back stairs are grouped beside the entry, which gives into the hall-dining-room. Since the essence of



4.—ABOVE THE WEIR: THE MILL STREAM FLOWING PLACIDLY TOWARDS THE HOUSE



5.—THE WEST TERRACE, WITH THE POSTS OF THE SLUICE-GATES



6. — THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE SOUTH END OF THE HOUSE

a mill-house is the views up and down stream, there are no passages on the ground floor, each room giving into the next—though in practice and fine weather the terrace on the upstream side provides lateral communication.

Between the hall and the living-room are grouped the main staircase, a telephone room, and combined flower room and buffet. The

room and buffet. The staircase (Fig. 8) is attractively built of structural materials—oak and brick, with arches of tiles-on-edge. The flower-room, tucked under the staircase and with direct access from the terrace, is seen here (Fig. 13) in its other role of a place of refreshment. The cupboard space with which it is surrounded provides ample storage for glass for whatever purpose, as well as a sink.

The decoration of hall and living-room are not due to Mr. Butler but to Lieut.-Commander Sydney Houghton, R.N.V.R. This largely accounts for a certain disparity between them and the conscientiously restrained handling of the structure of the house. A delightful feature of the place is the provision, beyond the living-room, of a garden room or loggia (Fig. 6), with unrendered brick walls, and large steel-framed windows that fold away, opening it completely to the west and south (Fig. 7). It is furnished with comfortable chairs and plain oak and great bowls of flowers or foliage in season.

A feature of all the bedrooms, of which there are three pairs of double and single, with bathrooms attached or adjacent, is the liberal provision of built-in fittings. All storage space for clothes is accounted for in this way, and dressing-tables are incorporated. For instance, in the south bedroom, Lady Usher's (Fig. 11), the dressing-table is provided in the east wall between groups

of cupboards and has its own little window above the table, the splays on either side being available for books or ornaments. The dressing-rooms have more or less standard fittings affording all requirements in a compact space (Fig. 10). Painted in a single light colour, with bright, well-chosen chintzes, each room has nevertheless its distinctive character.

But Tyle Mill is essentially an out-of-doors house. In summer, the terrace above the sluice-gates is the usual sitting-place (Fig. 5), and from it there are deligh ful views and strolls up the stream, along the mill-race and over the weir (Fig. 4). Looking back to the house, the eye can note with satisfaction the nicety with which Mr. Butler has observed and applied the peculiarities of water-mill construction—the angle projection of barge boards, the tilts of roofs, and the wholly domestic dominance of the great sweeping tiled roof with its nicely-swept valleys where the dormers project.

But, once away from the terrace, we find ourselves in a fly-fisher's paradise, with its own hatchery and a marvellous artificial reproduction of a chalk trout-stream, providing a quarter of a mile of perfect Test conditions within about ten acres of ground, But description of that must be left till another time.

Christopher Hussey.





(Right) 7.—THE GARDEN ROOM OPENING ON TO THE TERRACE



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8.—)AK AND BRICK AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRCASE



9.—THE PINE-PANELLED LIVING-ROOM WITH WINDOWS LOOKING UP AND DOWN STREAM





10, 11.—BUILT-IN FITTINGS ARE A FEATURE OF ALL THE BED- AND DRESSING-ROOMS



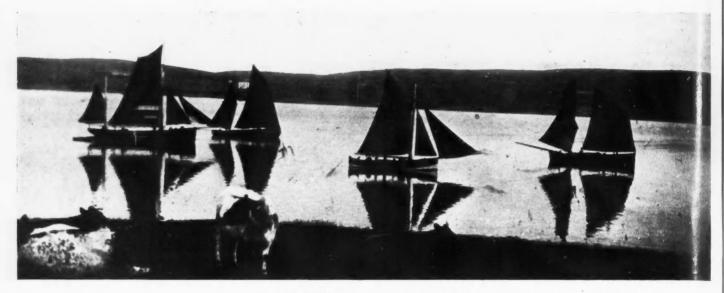
12.—THE HALL IS ALSO USED AS THE DINING-ROOM



13.—FLOWER-ROOM OR BUFFET, AS REQUIRED

OLD-TIME SCOTTISH FISHING BOATS

By R. STUART BRUCE



1.—A SCAFFA (second from left) IN 1897

USED to live, in the summers of the 'nineties, on the island of Whalsay, Shetland, and I constantly saw hundreds of sailing fishing craft of all kinds passing by. Among them were the old Scottish herring-boats which have now disappeared, but the pictures illustrating this article, most of which I took between 1893 and 1900, bring back to me many recol-

lections of picturesque scenes.

One memory I cherish in particular is of an evening in June. I see again a calm sea with not a breath of wind, lights on the hills of the mainland of Shetland that I cannot describe, and a fleet of becalmed herring-boats reaching from the North Entry of Lerwick, 12 miles away, far north to the island of Yell. Suddenly there broke on my ear the sound of the pipes, carried across the quiet sea from a Scottish scaffa lying about a mile away. The setting of the scene was perfect; what the piper

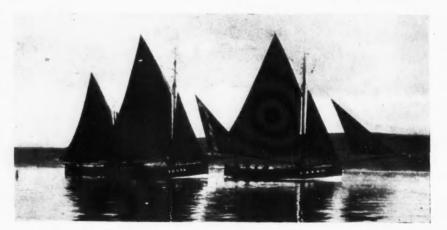
played I do not know, but I shall never forget that combination of sight and sound. The scaffa was a very old type of herring-

The scaffa was a very old type of herringboat much used in Banffshire and Invernessshire, but it was superseded very largely by the zulu and the fifie types of hull. The only photograph I ever saw of a scaffa under sail (Fig. I) was taken by a friend in Lerwick harbour in 1897. From left to right it shows a trading ketch, name unknown, then the scaffa Elsie Main, BF. 426, of Portknockie, Banfishire, the Shetland cutter-rigged fifie, Rosebank, LK. 292, of Sandwick, and the Manx nickie, Full Moon, PL. 72, of Peel.

The nickies from the Isle of Man were practically the same as the luggers from

Penzance and St. Ives, many of which also came to the Shetland herring-fishing in the 'nineties. These we thought were small craft to come all the way from Cornwall to Shetland, but they were splendid sea boats, admirably handled and good sailers. About 1850 one of them sailed safely to Australia during the gold rush, and her crew went up to the diggings. I do not know if they did much in the way of getting gold, but they certainly proved that these small boats of 43 to 48 ft. of keel, could keep the sea in all kinds of weather.

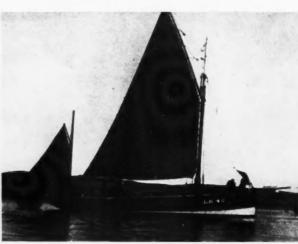
Fig. 2 shows a group



2.—CUTTER-RIGGED BOATS, ALL FIFIES



3.—A ZULU—A COMPROMISE BETWEEN A SCAFFA AND A FIFIE



4.—A WHALSAY BOAT WITH AN ELLIPTICAL STERN



5.—THE DANDY WAS A POPUL R RIG IN SHETLAND





(Left) 6.—SWEDISH BOATS WHICH FISHED OFF SHETLAND BEFORE THE WAR $(Right) \ \ 7.\text{—A} \ \ \, \text{DUTCH} \ \ \, \text{BOM} \ \ \, \text{AT LERWICK}$

of c., ter-rigged boats, all fifies. From left to right, the James and Martha, LK. 904, of Lerwick FR. 695, a Fraserburgh boat—it was a

rafit to see an FR. boat cutte rigged, as nearly all were luggers—and the Tourst, LK. 440, of Scallo-

way, Shetland.
One of the most interesting types of hull was the zulu. A story is told of its inception. Before the building of the first zulu, the two main types of hull on the north-east coast of Scotland were the fifie and the scaffa.

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The story goes that a boat owner named Campbell, who lived near the Moray Firth in 1879, was going to have a herringboat built, and he and his wife could not agree as to the type of hull. One wanted a fifie, and the other a scaffa. At length a compromise was reached, and a boat having the vertical bows of the fifie and the raked sternpost of the scaffa was built. As the

Zulu War was then being fought, the fishermen dubbed her the zulu, and zulus they have been ever since. I think the first boat was called the *Nonesuch*. This type proved very weatherly, and was most successful.

The zulus were fine sailers, and hundreds of them were built, some being so large that they required the aid of a steam capstan to hoist

example of which is in Fig. 5, the Campania, LK. 1107, of Whalsay.

Perhaps a few photographs of foreign craft at Shetland may be of

craft at Shetland may be of interest. Fig. 6 shows two Swedish fishers, Wagen, LL. 880, and Nero, LL. 97, both of Lysekil, photographed by me in 1922. Many of these fine boats fished cod, ling and tusk with us before the war.

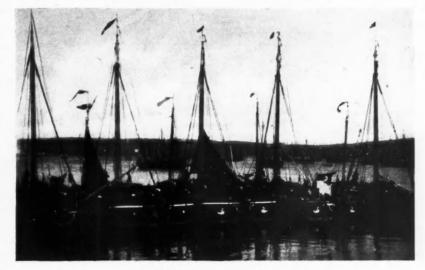
standy of these lines bates fished cod, ling and tusk with us before the war.

My pictures, some of which are in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, would not be complete without a few of the Dutch boms which fished herrings off Shetland before the last war. Fig. 7 is Drie Gezusters, SCH. 218, of Scheveningen. Fig. 8 shows a number of boms lying alongside one another at Lerwick.

After the boms came the logger-boms, big ketchrigged vessels, without lee-boards, many built of steel. I have seen more than 200 of them lying in Lerwick harbour at one time. Some

of them are seen in Fig. 9.

Scottish herring-fishing has fallen on evil days, and after the war something must be done to get new boats and new markets for as fine a set of men as you could meet anywhere.



8.—A GROUP OF DUTCH BOMS

their sails, and haul their nets. Fig. 3 is a zulu, BF. 11. Fig. 4 shows a boat with an elliptic stern, the *Valkyrie*, LK. 40, of Whalsay. In the later years of the sailing herring-boat, the popular rig in Shetland was the dandy, an



9.—LOGGER-BOMS—MANY BUILT OF STEEL

THE GOLFER'S LUNCH

A Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

HAVE just finished a dinner so modest-I will not say austere—that both Lord Woolton and Sir Kingsley Wood must needs approve of it. It is therefore, I suppose due to the law of contraries that I am reminded of a letter I received from a friend the other day. He wanted me to write an unashamedly greedy article about lunches at golf clubs in happier days. It is a nostalgic subject and an invidious one, too, for there are so many clubs that have good lunches and I must needs pick out but a few. Still, I will

essay it.

Of some of these meals I have a memory which is sentimental rather than gastronomic. Cold beef is, for instance, an excellent thing but not an uncommon one. Yet its name instantly suggests to me only one place, a low dark parlour in the old Crown Inn at Royston, now swept away in the widening of the street. We used to lunch there in prehistoric ages when there was no club-house and only a tin hut for the professional's shop. It was very good cold beef, but when I have said that I have said all; yet it can never be forgotten. Neither for that matter can some other cold meat that was not good at all, for we called it irreverently "biltong." It was provided in the Aberdovey club-house by dear old Mr. Evans, on whom be peace, and possibly the memory of it is made radiant by the thought of the benedictine that always followed it.

And now to more classic ground. teach me to sing of hot collops at Sandwich, which I first encountered, consule Mr. James, just about this time seven and forty years ago, at my first University match in March, 1895. I cannot assert that there are no other collops as good, but I am sure that nowhere are there any better. They surely belong to that noble corner of Kent, because, unless I am mistaken, I have also eaten them at Deal. Indeed, in peaceful days I should now be looking forward to eating them at the Halford Hewitt Cup, in that wonderful lunch that begins about 11 a.m. for those who started in the grim dawn and goes on till 4 p.m., for those who began their round

a little after noon.

Passing along the coast from Kent into Sussex, we come to a lunch at Rye, which is held in grateful remembrance by all who have eaten it and have got a chair to sit upon, since the room is small, while they did so. It has of late years become rather more varied, orthodox and gorgeous than of old, but its original character remains. The prudent golfer still comes straight into the main room of the club-house even before he has washed and says "Buttered eggs, please, Helen," adding sometimes a demand for sausage. Then by the time he has tidied himself, there are the buttered eggs ready smoking on his table; unless, indeed, somebody else has stolen them, for morals in this matter are low. It is a meal with a pleasant suggestion of "high tea," or of a Saturday tea at school after football when Sunday was coming and no unpleasant thoughts of work need obtrude themselves. Something of the same quality of magic belongs to the mixed grill, the sausage, the egg and the piece of bacon at Worlington over which I am conscious of having become lyrical before.

There are certain dishes which are to be met with at many clubs, but seem to belong as of right to a few. To which club for instance shall I ascribe fried sole? It seems to me that there must be two of them in a bracket-Mid-Surrey and Addington. At both they are of a singularly scrumptious quality and beyond that I will not go. Fried sole seems by some curious association of ideas to suggest treacle tart, and here again there are many competitors, among which I choose Walton Heath. Rice pudding seems also to belong to Mid-Surrey and in the mind's eye I see my old friend, Mr Sidney Fry, devouring it with cream and strawberry jam—a beatific and now unrealisable vision. And while I am still near London, I must not forget Swinley Forest where the lunch awaits us laid out by unseen hands and we help

ourselves in a delightfully cosy and casual manner.

If I turn my eyes northward I must needs think of potted shrimps at St. Annes, at Formby and at Hoylake. I put them in that particular order because it is thus that I have eaten them on many cheerful tours of the Society in those hospitable regions. And the blue Cheshire cheese at Hoylake—I must not forget that, nor a Lancashire cheese which I met at Birkdale, devoting myself to it so regularly that a kind member of the club was touched by my devotion and sent me one all to myself. As to shrimps, by the way, I must put in a good word for those at St. Andrews and the lunch in that pleasant room in the club-house looking right up and down the first and last holes. So many people go back to their hotels for lunch that they are not fully acquainted with the quality of that at the club; I venture, after considerable experience, to say that it is second to none. St. Andrews makes me think of Muirfield and Prestwick, and of delightful tours in the East and West of Scotland. No special dish comes to my mind,

only a general sense of agreeable repletion, My friend who suggested this gross topic declared that at Muirfield he had been allowed to help himself to Kümmel. It had naturally made a great impression on him. cannot honestly say that I remember that, but I do remember having been helped very generously to it by a number of kind hosts and especially by my opponents in the forthcoming afternoon foursome. The Devonshire cream of Westward Ho! the Cornish pasties of St. Enodoc, the benedictine of Portmarnock, the lobster of Littlehampton-they come flocking back to my mind and I must call a halt, lest I begin to feel that I have made a single and comprehensive feast on them all at once. I a not really so greedy as I may appear, only gr teful to many people for many kindnesses and nuch hospitality. These lunches may be things of the past, when the war is over; I rather think they will have to be. If so, they will be pleas at to remember as are many other golfing hings which never can happen again. Doubtless we shall bear up and doubtless, also, we shall play our second rounds all the better. There was an old friend of mine who used to exclaim in moments of ecstasy, "It is impossible to exaggerate the pleasures of the table; but then he never tried to play even one round. began this catalogue with cold beef and I shall be perfectly happy to end with it.

Game Problems of 1942-IV

SYSTEMATIC FEEDING OF PHEASANTS

By CAPTAIN J. B. DROUGHT

HAVE heard men, in comparing partridges with pheasants, say that in building from a tiny nucleus of breeding stock the latter are an easier proposition. Personally, I would suggest that the direct opposite is the case, provided always that no recourse is had to artificial methods of propagation.

Let us consider some of the major factors which affect game welfare. First there is the question of environment, which embodies those most vital considerations-food supply and cover. Here I suggest partridges have the pull, because they are spontaneous products of the soil and, provided reasonable amenities exist, are as content on the 300-acre farm as on the 3,000-acre manor. The partridge follows the plough, and it has always been remarkable that with increasing tillage coveys tend to increase More than any game birds, they depend on insect food-in the first few days of their existence, for example. There is no substitute, and soils which are constantly being turned for tillage are larders vastly superior to grass lands. So, in present circumstances, when every farm, however humble, is laid under compulsory contribution to the nation's food supply, partridges have better chances to increase and multiply than at any other time since the first decade of this century, and, wherever game birds can exist at all, there or thereabouts they should be found.

BIRDS HARD TO PLEASE

With pheasants it is rather different. People non-conversant with their habits are apt to think that, just because they are shot out of coverts, they should be found in any woodland area no matter what its constitution. Unfortunately this is not the case, for pheasants, thanks possibly to their Oriental origin, are a trifle hard to please; nor will they stay put in any place which does not suit them. must have light and air and sunny glades as scratching grounds, as well as shady nooks and roosting trees

So, briefly, this means that unless one possesses reasonably attractive woods with such variety of timber as will combine these several necessities, and unless those woods are trimmed in various stages of growth, so as to let in the air and sun and exclude the damp which otherwise arises from neglected ground and overgrowth, one cannot expect wild pheasants to wax fat. However simple this may sound in theory, it is not so easy in practice, especially as a one-man job; nor, incidentally, is it always inexpensive.

Moreover, the characteristics of the species have considerable bearing on the point. One may suggest that partridges exhibit three outstanding traits—selectiveness in pairing, monogamous habits and assiduous attention of both parents to their offspring. Thus, with healthy and virile stock, obviously the maximum fertility and protection for the young when they

arrive are assured.

None of these traits is conspicuous in pheasants. In the first place, they are polygamous, and secondly as a family man the cock bird is a wash-out. He shows (after mating) little interest in his wives and none whatever in the welfare of his offspring. And so it follows that wherever too many cocks are running with the hens a low standard of fertility is the result, and at best the latter must cover large broods without assistance. Consequently the measure of protection afforded to baby chicks against inclement weather and their natural enemies is considerably lower than that which partridges provide.

FRESH BLOOD

That is not to say, however, that the single-handed man cannot do reasonably well with wild stocks. On small shoots I have found that to turn down early in the year a few stock birds in the proportion of one cock to half a dozen hens, in order to introduce fresh blood, often gives astonishingly good results.

When one is entirely relieved of the arduous and anxious task of hand-rearing, one finds a definite saving of time and labour in that all nests can be left alone (save those in obviously dangerous sites) and consequently broods hatch out on what is virtually virgin soil. Instead of being huddled in a circumscribed area, on which pheasants have swarmed year after year, they first see the light on ground perhaps far removed from the coverts, but it is ground which sems with insect life and consequently there is nore natural food to go round. Where too big a stock natural food to go round. is concentrated in a central position, the wandering habits of the hen arise from her anxiety to find natural food for her posvish the brood, and consequently she drags them bout to ultimate disaster.

The care of outlying nests is therefore of great importance, for, once the birds 1ave really established themselves, they will in evitably scatter all over a shoot. But I have bund that to keep wanderlust in check, the sowing of one or two small areas with successively rotating crops is a high yielding investment. It costs very little to sow a few patches (even a few square yards here and there is better than nothing) adjacent to the coverts with buckwheat, oats, early and late clover, rye, and even Jerusalem artichokes, which crop in rotation from April to October, and such areas no only offer sufficient attraction to keep the beas at home, but help to lighten the food bills. It is is of particular moment just now when to fe i pheasants artificially, even if it were published, would be a crime.

In normal times the great secret of getting

and keeping wild pheasants to the places on which you want them is to feed with regularity. If you establish certain definite rules, and feed always at the same hours and places, the birds come to expect it, and will never be far away when the time arrives.

With patience, therefore, a really good stock of wild birds can be raised and maintained at a fraction of the cost of artificial rearing. And the sporting quality of the shooting is not in question, for the birds will be found here, there and everywhere, past-masters in all the tricks of their trade. Densely stocked coverts need not be expected, and, generally speaking, "big" days will be fewer, but in the long run

there will be no less shooting, for many a pleasant bye-day will be spent in field and hedgerow and along the boundaries.

It is difficult to agree with those who maintain that wild pheasants cannot be flushed properly. So long as systematic feeding in covert has been practised, my experience is that they are just as easy to handle as the handreared variety, and can be put on the wing in steady flushes to give even higher and more sporting shooting. To thin down the cocks to a proportion of one to six or seven hens will assist to increase stocks, and I think a small average of hens of three or four years old is by no means a disadvantage.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE VOICE OF THE BAT

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E.—Surely there is no particular hystery about the cry of the bat—it so high and shrill that only some yo ge ars can hear it, when uttered by a single bat. But it is audible en igh when some hundreds of bats (or erhaps I should write thousands), are all squeaking at once—even to elderly ears. A few years ago I paid a visit to the caves at Dambulla, in Ceylon, on the road from Kandy to Signiya. They are steeply recessed and overhanging cliffs, rather than caves in a strict sense, and are festooned with innumerable clusters of bats. Towards sundown, when I happened to be there, they all start squeaking at once, and although the noise they make cannot be called deafening, it is plain to hear, and extraordinarily shrill, almost unpleasantly so. I remember thinking that a prolonged dose of it would drive one crazy, or at the least give one a bad headache.—LATYMER, Shipton Lodge, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxford.

NETTLES AND NERVES

SIR,—It has been a long and cold winter and men's nerves and women's nerves and growing children's nerves have become frayed and tempers on edge owing to the loss from their dietary of those nerve salines which are best obtained from freshly growing green leaves.

Our gardens have been laid bare by long continuous frosts and no imports have come in to make good the loss of our better home-grown produce.

Now, in every hedgerow and upon every old heap of stones and rubbish there is rapidly growing up a wonderful crop of early, tender, green nettle-tops.

Nettle-tops cut with scissors in a gloved hand and shaken well in cold water and dropped into a saucepan with no further added water will cook into a tender dish in 20 minutes.

With added oil or butter, a dish of nettle-tops will provide that wonderful curative dish of which our ancestors rhymed:

"In spring we turn to saladies
To cure our winter maladies."

-Josiah Oldfield (President of the Fruitarian Society), 8, Harley Street, W.

A PHONETIC NOTICE

SIR,—On his house in Bath, on the south side of the Abbey, Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of phonetic spelling, is commemorated in the presentation of the street name as shown in my photograph.

photograph.

Note the new letter to give the NG sound.—F. R. W., Bristol.

AN UNKNOWN LADY

SIR,—I wonder if any of your readers can identify the portrait of this charming young woman, attributed to Cornelis Jansens. All I know about her is that she was at one time in the collection of the late W. E. Mitchell-Molyneux, Ferndale House, Tunbridge Wells.—H. V. MORTON, South Hay, Bordon, Hampshire.

NEW FOREST PONIES

From Lord Northbrook.

SIR,—I had not intended to trouble you with another letter, but the attacks made on me in your correspondence columns

respondence columns with regard to the New Forest ponies make me ask you for the courtesy of space to reply to my critics.

First, I would like to say when I wrote my original letter published in your issue of February 20, I was not concerned with or thinking of the New Forest ponies at all. My object was to arouse interest in, and try to ensure the preservation of, the very valuable local breed of cattle bred in the New Forest and to ask that the breed should not be lost or harmed by attempts at so-called improvement, which would render them unsuitable for the life the cattle have to lead and destroy a valuable breed. I happened—almost in passing—to say of the New Forest ponies, "Their day is done," but I expressly



ON KINGSTON BUILDINGS, BATH, SIR ISAAC PITMAN'S HOME

(See letter "A Phonetic Notice")

said in my letter that I was not dealing with the question of ponies: my interest was in the local breed of cattle. Your correspondents seem to have missed the whole point of my letter.

However, as three of your correspondents have, in raising the question of the New Forest ponies, definitely mertioned my name as attacking them, I would like to mention the following facts.

I am a farmer of 600 acres, old-fashioned in my views and with a very definite interest in farm horseflesh. I still work 15 horses on my farm for preference. I think any of my friends would say I am the last man to desire the extinction of any breed of horses serving a useful purpose. Indeed, I am often thought very old-fashioned in my views on this subject. So much for my personal views on horseflesh in general.

views on horseflesh in general.

But facts are hard things and I can give the following in support of my views on the Forest pony.

- (1) Some years ago I was in the Forest and was looking at a bunch of mares and foals outside a typical Forest holding. The farmer came out and we began talking. I asked him what price he expected to make for his foals at weaning time. He said: "You can have your pick of them or take the lot at 50s. a head." This didn't seem to indicate a very active demand.
- (2) I was sufficiently interested to follow up the matter a little and I was told by a dealer that so little were the foals wanted that they were often sold and killed and the flesh sold as veal. My informant is in a position to be likely to know.
- (3) It was stated lately in an article in the Press by Dr. Kenchington, now in charge of the reclamation work in the New Forest, that whereas a generation ago the sales of horses or ponies in the Burley area of the Forest amounted to £2,000 a year, the sales to-day were not now more than £150 a year, and Dr. Kenchington is in a position where he is likely to know the truth of the matter.

I have also been able to get into touch with a land agent and auctioneer with a big practice in the New Forest, who has for the last 28 years held an annual sale of New Forest ponies of all ages at Beaulieu Road in the autumn. He has kindly let me have a priced catalogue of his sale in 1939 and he tells me the prices would represent a fair average for the five

or six years previous to that year. I have worked out the averages which are as follows:

		Each.		
	£	S.	d.	
22 suckers averaged	2	5	0	
21 yearlings averaged	4	0	0	
26 mares, all ages, averaged	6	13	0	
3 stallions averaged	5	10	0	
9 geldings (4 years and up-	Ü			
ward) averaged	5	14	0	
I think these figures speak f selves.	or	the	m-	

If your correspondents could see, as I have seen, the condition of slow starvation many of these ponies running in the Forest are often reduced to in a hard winter and late spring (from the idea I suppose that they are not worth giving extra food to), they might change their ideas. I cannot imagine animals on which their owners set any value being left to starve as these ponies often are. I think any of your readers who actually live in the Forest will confirm me on this point.

Lastly, I wish to make one more point and an important one. Several of your correspondents have assumed that the grievance about the ponies arises from gates being left open and the ponies straying into the gardens or crops. That is not the point at all. The real point is that these ponies in winter are always breaking through into cultivated ground and farms on the edge of the Forest, and feeding or damaging crops wanted in the national interest.

I speak feelingly as a farmer when I say that nothing is more infuriating to any man who is keen on his crops—we all are nowadays—than to have them destroyed or damaged by straying stock on any land.

It is an old country saying and a true one that "nothing makes worse neighbours than stock which has broken out."

has broken out."

In any part of England of which I have ever heard it is the duty of the owner of stock to keep his own stock within bounds, and this rule has been upheld in the Law Courts. If this is not the law in the New Forest, the sooner that law is altered the better. As it is, a drove of ponies may easily destroy in a few nights a crop far more valuable than they are themselves. In these days it is the more valuable crop in the national interest that has got to come first and it is not fair to farmers whose land adjoins the Forest that the crops they are



AP TURE TO IDENTIFY: WHO WAS SHE?
(See letter "An Unknown Lady")

trying to grow should be destroyed by bands of straying stock of any kind.

kind.

The point really comes down to this. Under present-day conditions those who run ponies in the Forest should be compelled in the national interest to remove them to an "intake" during the winter months. Those who have ponies of any value would surely do this; indeed, I believe some do already.

some do already.

Those ponies which are not suffi-ciently valuable to make it worth while to take this care, can well be spared without detriment to the

May I stress that I am dealing with ponies in the winter, not at any other time of the year. They usually find ample food during the summer months. — Northbrook, Wo Bramdean, Hampshire. Woodlands Farm,

WHOLEMEAL BREAD

From Sir Frnest Graham-Little, M.P. SIR—Perhaps you will allow me to supplement my letter to you in your issue of April 10, with the following arguments for the adoption of a 100 per cent. utilisation of the wheatgrain in preparing the national war loaf.

The urgent necessity of saving shipping space has been emphasised within the last week or two. The Prime Minister has announced that the posi-The Prime tion in the Atlantic has "worsened of late and the Parliamentary Secretary of late and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture has twice given the warning that "the food situation is graver than it has ever been." At long last, and under very insistent pressure, the Minister of Food, after 2½ years of war, has announced his decision to adopt what can only be described as a half-measure, namely, the introduction as a compulsory war bread of the current national wheatmeal loaf of 85 per cent. extraction.

This decision falls lamentably short of the bolder and wiser decision of the Food Controller in the last war, taken in the summer of 1917, to provide, exclusively, a war bread which at first utilised 90 per cent. and

As long ago as May, 1940, in a letter to the *Times*, I urged the Minister of Food to follow this example, and I repeated this plea in the food debate in Parliament of July, 1940. The extraordinary expedient actually adopted was a proposal to "fortify" white flour, involving the illusory claim that by adding one synthetically claim that by adding one synthetically prepared vitamin (B.1), the natural vitamins, some ten in number, present in whole-grain bread, could be adequately replaced and that the loss of valuable minerals, such as iron, phosphorus and magnesium, would be made up by the addition of an unnamed calcium salt. How utterly impreciable, and incadequate, this impracticable and inadequate this proposal really was is evident from the fact that up to the present date only about 25 per cent. of white flour has been "fortified" white flour has been "fortified" with the synthetic vitamin B.1 and no calcium whatever has been provided. The final abandonment of this ill-considered scheme with the banning of white flour "for the duration," will be received with relief by every food expert and also, I believe, by the general public.

About six months ago the Ministry of Food announced in Parliament that 75 per cent., as against 70 per cent., of the wheat-grain would in future be used in making white flour, which constituted 95 per cent. of the whole grain yield controlled by the Government, and the position therefore is that for something like two years, 30 per cent. of the imported wheat was diverted from human use and a corresponding unnecessary strain was placed upon shipping space, and it is to be noted that wheat is by far the bulkiest item of our imports

By instituting a compulsory loaf of 85 per cent. extraction as the Minister has now resolved to do, 10 per cent. of the shipping space would be saved; but by the adoption would be saved; but by the adoption of a 100 per cent. utilisation of the grain, the saving would be 25 per cent., and, moreover, the resultant war loaf would have a higher nutritive value. It is difficult to understand why so obvious a choice should not be now made by the Ministry of Feed. the Ministry of Food.

later 95 per cent. of the wheat grain.

PLAYMATES (See letter "The Cock and his Young Friend"

A specification confined to requiring 85 per cent. of the grain to be used, does not prevent the provision of a loaf from which the most valuable constituents of the grain such as the wheat germ and the finer bran have been removed. It should be noted that the wheat germ which contains by far the larger proportion of constit-uents important to health, notably the vita-mins, assimilable protein fat and minerals, constitutes less than 2 per cent. of the volume of the grain.

But its commercial value to the millers may be gauged by the fact that while the price of white flour, deprived of its wheat germ, which the millers abstract, is about £13 10s. per ton, the price of wheat germ products is over £20 per ton, and the ludicrous position has arisen that our supremely unscien-tific nation allows the millers to take out of the bread that it buys for food, valuable constit-uents which richer members of the public buy back at greatly in-creased price, in the form of widely advertised pro-prietary foods and

vitamin preparations.

I submit, sir, that no measure short of utilisation of the whole of the wheat grain for human food will satisfy, or should satisfy, the public and I hope that important organs of opinion, such as your journal, will press this choice upon the Ministry of Food .- E. GRAHAM-LITTLE, House



-I send you a photograph which took this summer on a small

Lincolnshire farm.

This particular cock (Indian Game I think) had a vile temper with adults, but the farmer's three-and-ahalf-year-old daughter could catch him in the stockyard and play with him whenever she desired. I had heard the story in the village and went to the

farm to satisfy my curiosity.

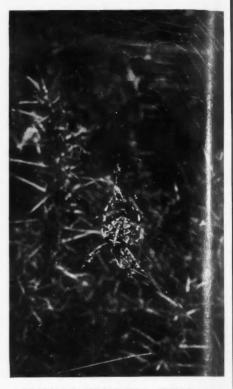
The little girl soon caught the cock and carried him off to her playcorner. The friendship between the pair was obvious but I did not dally over the picture taking as it was equally obvious that the cock was drawn between loyalty to his little friend and hatred of a strange adult with a queer box.—J. A. CARPENTER, Harrogate.

THE SPIDER CARRIES ON

SIR.-I read with amusement and a of November 14 entitled as above. I have the same feeling of aversion with regard to an earwig and imagine most people to experience similar sensations at the sight of one creature or another. What can be the origin of such unreasonable dislikes? Perhaps my photograph will help to mitigate yet more the terror of your correspondent at the prospect of meeting with a garden spider, for I think from her description that Araneus diadenatus must be her veranda visitor. This spider is really beautiful creature and has some

a beautiful creature and has some interesting habits.

There are a number of spiders belonging to this family, most of them striking in appearance, and they spin most skilfully symmetrical webs of excellent design. Many of them, including diadematus, attach a strong thread to the centre of their web at thread to the centre of their web at the back, and carry it to a hiding-place inside a curled leaf, under a twig



" REALLY A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE"
(See letter "The Spider Carries On") "The Spider Carries On"

or, as in the case of my present subject, among the dead flowers of a gorse bush. She often spends hours waiting in this retreat with her first two legs holding this communicating thread so that the least vibration made by an entangled insect can be felt at once. The spider runs down when the web vibrates and quickly attaches some webbing material from her spinnerets with her two hind legs to the victim, then, taking a firm hold of it, turns it rapidly over and over with front legs and feelers until it is swathed like a mummy from head to foot and can be left in the web until the owner feels be left in the web until the owner lesis hungry. If needing a meal at the time of capture, diadematus injects a paralysing fluid into the insect until it ceases to move and then devours it entirely, leaving no trace except a gap in the web where the insect has been caught.

After several meals the begins to look very sketchy, and finally the spider removes all the lines except the centre "guy ropes," which in the case of this species are generally in the form of a triangle with long threads attached to outlying twigs and grasses. She may not weave another web for two or three days, but eventually it will appear—a perfect structure, strong, elastic and iridescent in the sun.—Catherine M. Clark, Fayrer Holme, Windermere.

RECORD OF BROOK HOUSE, HACKNEY

-Your remark, in your issue of March 27, concerning Brook House, Hackney, "that it was almost whelly unknown," is no doubt true of this as of many other architectural treasures in London which survived until they became the victims of German barbarity. It must not, however, be ferred that Brook House escaped attention of those who have wor for the preservation and record London buildings in those far days of peace when the public v sadly indifferent to their fate. Bro House was the subject of the fi monograph of the London Surv Committee, written by Ernest Mann and published in 1904. beautiful record included, besides architectural drawings, a charming etching of the courtyard by Jessel Godman, A.R.E., wife of Ern st Godman, who worked so devotedly as

committee's first secretary. the committee's first secretary.—
WALTER H. GODFREY, Hon. Editor,
The London Survey Committee, Lancaster House, St. James's, S.W.1.
[Fortunately, any such generalisation as that to which Mr. Godfrey
refers can be qualified in this, or a simi-

y. The reports of the Royal Com-on Historical Monuments the whole field of London, in on to the particular buildings lar w add: he London Survey has dealt in their invaluable volumes. heless, outside the circle of the anti, who knew of Brook with -Ep.1 Hou

NK WITH AMERICA A

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ff as There is an inscription on a placed in the wall of a restored at Wilton on its re-dedication 1939, which reads:—

1939, which reads:—
Ionouring the memory of his
r Robert Bingham, conseBishop of Salisbury on this
7 May, A.D. 1229, Robert
m, Ambassador of United
at the Court of St. James
937 caused this Chancel to be



A WILTSHIRE WATER ROAD
(See letter "Fords and Walkers' Ways")

estored." The Ambassador, who died December 18, 1937, left in this coun try an honoured memory and many

No distance breaks the tie of blood, Brothers are Brothers evermore

The Ambassador's ancestor, a The Ambassador's ancestor, a Dorsetshire man from Binghams Melcombe, was to have been consecrated Bishop of Salisbury; but the old Norman Abbey at Old Sarum had by the thirteenth century fallen into disuse and the new Cathedral at Salisbury was still not completed. So it was that the consecration took place at Wilton place at Wilton.

A few years ago, however, all that was to be seen at Wilton was a remnant of the chancel linked by the arches to the great arch of the west window standing half hidden in a very overgrown yard. Now by the late Ambassador's generosity there is a seemly House of God set in a idy yard of tombs, shrubs, yews and

A number of tombs and head-A number of tombs and head-stones have been used to form paving stones for the path. This is perhaps a pity, for the old inscriptions are being gradually worn away by many footsters. The restored chancel, too, is of inverset, for many places haves outsteps. The restored chance, two, is of interest, for many plaques have been in rerted in the walls, some of which are fairly old. In the yard wo columns are placed which seem to be original thirteenth - century working selving as is part of the north ship, as is part of the north he chancel. rkma vall of

unique restoration has pro-parishioners with a homely worship, in which many ice a week for services of rided t gather

ecently Mr. Barry Bingham,





THE OLD CHURCH AT WILTON RESTORED BY AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
(See letter "A Link with America")

son of the Ambassador, who is engaged on United States Civilian Defence, has been in London studying British A.R.P.—J. W. HANSFORD, Bucketts Farm, Whitchurch Canonicorum, Bridport.

FORDS AND WALKERS' WAYS

SIR,-It may interest your readers, in onnection with the letter on "Fords and Walkers' Ways," published in your issue of March 6, to see this picture of a water road near Westbury in Wiltshire .- A., Weeke, Winchester

ECZEMA IN DOGS

From Sir Claud Alexander, Bt.

SIR,—As to canine eczema, perhaps it is not too late to suggest something further

Give the dog a good grooming with a fine-toothed comb and get all dead and under-coat out. Then rub in dry flowers of sulphur—not very in dry flowers of sulpnur—not very heavily, except on any sore places. This process can be repeated at short intervals as necessary, but provided you are feeding it properly the dog will stop be all wight.

soon be all right.

Eczema should never occur in any well managed kennel. This statement may seem a bit dogmatic, so I had better give my credentials. I have had almost 60 years' experience with both show and working dogs besides a large collection of wild obsides a large collection of white carnivora from lions to wolves, foxes, etc., and cats. Also I have often taken on good show dogs, under sentence of death for skin disease, and had them all right in two or three months. The last, a Skye, came to me quite bare about two and a half years ago, but he was in lovely coat six months later. I sent him to America, where he is a full-blown champion

where he is a full-blown champion and winning everywhere.

The food should be all meat, raw for choice, and bone, fed dry and once a day. Our present kennel average from 25lb. to 30lb., and their ration averages 7oz. of meat and about 3ins. of bone per day.

In war-time food may be difficult, but horse-flesh is still to be got and

but horse-flesh is still to be got, and dry dog-biscuit or hound-meal can be used as a possible substitute for bone, the weight being about 3oz. Failing everything else, fish-heads and offal can generally be got for little or nothing from fishmongers and can be lightly steamed (not boiled) and fed dry, bones and all.

As to arsenic, I have known many fine show dogs ruined by it and reduced to hysterical wrecks. Some otherwise good vets, recommend bread instead of biscuit, but the latter is largely bone-meal and hoofs, etc. and these gentlemen can never answer my question why, if they feed their dogs on bread, they don't feed their horses on beef-steak? Slops should be avoided like the plague, and dogs should always have

access to fairly fresh house ashes, Nature's remedy for worms; and a finer sifted edition of this, especially in the form of wood ash, will also get rid of external parasites.—CLAUDE ALEXANDER, Faygate Wood, Faygate,

VETERAN FIRE ENGINES

Sir,—I enclose photographs of two ancient fire engines. One of these was purchased second-hand many years ago from the Bank of England by the parish council of Doddington,

Cambridgeshire. It needs 12 men on each side to pump water on to a fire. these have to be relieved after a time by a second team. This engine was in use until the out-break of the present war and is still in being.

The fire engine at Manea, Cambridgeshire, is even older, the date 1846 can be seen on the end view. This engine is end view. This engine is in perfect condition and is still in use as the official village fire engine. Not long ago it did excellent work when called to a A team of 20 men, 10 on each side, is required when in action. This team can work for about a quarter of an hour when it is relieved, after a further quarter of an hour the second second of an nour the second team is relieved by the first team and so on. One improvement has been made in this engine, in place of the shafts for a horse it has now a trailer attachment so that it drawn behind

a motor lorry or car. Serving as it does an agricultural area it can in this way reach a distant farm fire much more quickly than would be possible with horses.—J. W. Morton, March, with horses.—J

RIDER HAGGARD AND THE ECLIPSE

THE ECLIPSE

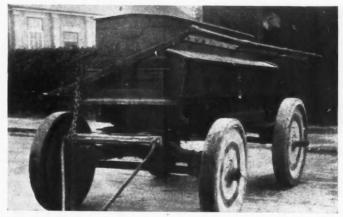
SIR,—I would never venture to correct
Major Jarvis, and Rider Haggard may
twice have used the device of an
eclipse of the sun, but he certainly
used it once in King Solomon's Mines
and in a way slightly different from
that suggested by Major Jarvis. Sir
Henry Curtis, Allan Quatermaine
and Captain Good are backing Ignosi
(formerly Umbopa) as the rightful
king of the Kukuanas against the
bloodthirsty Twala. The potential
supporters of Ignosi ask for a sign
to convince them, whereupon the supporters of Ignosi ask for a sign to convince them, whereupon the calendar and the eclipse are thought of by, I think, Captain Good. As I remember the great work, he addresses the sun in a magnificent and endless string of profane expressions until at last its face begins to be obscured and, to the great relief of the prophets, the calendar is proved correct. The book was once, and indeed still is, so dear to me that I should be sorry to see it done out of its rights.—Bernard Darwin, Winson Manor, near Circucester. Manor, near Cirencester

OLD INN SIGNS IN YORKSHIRE

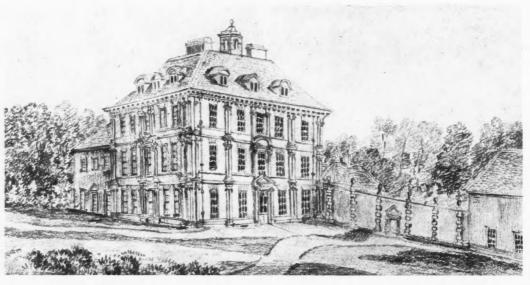
SIR,—Your correspondent, J. A. Carpenter, in his interesting letter on "Old Inn Signs in Yorkshire" (March 27) gives an illustration of "the sign of the Hammer and Hand at the village of Hutton-le-Hole," and says:



THE DODDINGTON FIRE ENGINE PURCHASED FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND



THE 1846 FIRE ENGINE OF MANEA WHICH IS STILL IN USE (See letter "Veteran Fire Engines")



A PENCIL SKETCH OF HALL BARN AS IT WAS BEFORE THE 1821 ADDITIONS " Hall Barn

"the heraldic devices are fanciful: at any rate, no other explanation now be found for them." He w He will, I am sure, forgive me for pointing out that, so far from being fanciful, the arms, crest and motto are those of the Blacksmiths' Company, Incor-porated the 15th of April 20 Eliz. 1578, by the name of Blacksmiths and Spurriers. They are given by Edmondson in his Complete Body of Heraldry, 1780, as follows:
"Arms.—Sable a chevron

between 3 hammers, argent handled of the second, ducally crowned of the

"Crest.-On a wreath a mount vert: thereon a phœnix with indorsed proper, firing the sunbeams of the last. firing herself with

Motto.-By hammer and hand

all arts do stand.
"Ancient Motto.—As God will,

"The Arms confirmed and the Crest altered by Sir Wm. Segar, Garter, the 24th June, 8, James I, 1610."—(Rev.) ARTHUR R. MEAD 1610."—(Rev.) ARTHUR R Hopwoods, Saffron Walden. R. MEAD,

HALL BARN

SIR,—The Hall Barn photographs and Mr. Hussey's informative article in-terested me. In a folio of prints and terested me. In a 1010 of prints and water-colours that I bought somewhere there is, besides engravings of Campbell's "Great Room," a pencil sketch of the house as it was before 1821 before the additions. According to the ledger of George Devey (1820-86), that busy Victorian archi-tect did work at Hall Barn for Mr. Hargreaves, who, you say, ha Barn, 1846-70. It seems like Barn, 1846-70. It seems likely that the addition of the porte coch, was due to him. The ledger also shows him working for Lord Burnham. bought the house in 1882, app rently the last additions, those entrance front, are due to The "solicitude for continuity the various additions referred to Mr Hussey, is not uncharacteri Devey's sound and consci-work.—P. Morley Horder East

Meon, Hampshire.

[Mr. Hussey writes: "Mr. Morley Horder's pencil drawing is almost identical with that reproduced in Richard. son and Eberlein The Smaller English House, 1160-1830, referred to in my articles. The information about Devey is interesting. But one would like to know who was responsible for the 1832 additions for Sir Gore Ousely.

BIRD-SKULL

OR days a bird-skull has lain on my table, constantly before me. I have picked it up so often, running my fingers over its flawless surfaces, that now, be-neath the feathers of every bird's head, I see this parchment skull, with its large sockets, edged as sharply as a broken flint, its thin beak, still opening marionette-like to the pressure of my thumb, and its smoothly modelled cranium. Nor has this intimacy with bone introduced a jarring, mundane note into my appreciation of the birds of hedge and wood and field; on the contrary, that appreciation has only been enhanced thereby, so that now I can truly say, "What a noble work is a bird!

I like to think that all the birds I ever saw carried this exquisite mechanism under their gay plumage. It gives substance to the dream. The plumage is the prelude and the skull is the fugue that inevitably follows it, tethering its bright fancies to earth, resolving them into the final cadence of death-bone, and nothing but the bone. Once this papery skull-so weightless that I can blow it away like a withered leafnodded among the wild roses, this beak had a tongue and sang, these sockets were alight with clear eyes that looked out from under the leaves

I like to remember this. Of all creatures delighting the heart, it is the birds that live most apart from man, in a world where he has no foothold; and somehow this skull seems to make me a little less a stranger.

Richard Jefferies has said that the secret of bird-watching lies in not looking at the bird. One must look, as it were, out of the corner of one's eye: must contrive to give the impression that one is not really interested in the bird at all, but in something quite else, beyond it, behind it. If this is so, what does the bird fear? Is it too fanciful to suppose it may fear the penetration of the beam of the human eye into its own: a psychical contamination?

There is the bird world and there is the human world; and certainly the two but rarely When all is said, we know so little impinge. about that bird world. Who of us, amateur or professional, can tell what laws are made and unmade in the garrulous parliament of rooks? Who, though a life's work has gone into the enquiry, can explain with certainty to what impulse the hosting starlings are responsive when, instantaneously as the crack of a whip,

By C. HENRY WARREN

they rise in their thousands from the boughs they blackened like locusts, to wheel with such exhilarating precision across the sky? Or who, again, can calculate the motor-power of the heart of a swallow-smaller than a hazel-nutthat goes fearlessly voyaging to Africa?

Indeed, I know what Jefferies meant, for I have often sensed (and who has not?) the momentary panic a bird must experience from such a contact. A thrush sits on her nest in the new-leafed hedge, and I draw near to look between the leaves. She does not stir. Her eve. bright as dew, stares at me; and though I meet with mine ("our eye-beames scrutiny twisted and did thread our eyes upon one double string") she does not quit the bloodwarm eggs under her downy belly. No, she does not flinch; but do you suppose her heart does not beat faster than it should?

I take this bird-skull in my hand. Bone, and nothing but the bone—yet may not bones be breathed upon and live again? So it is now, anyway. Into this fragile skull memory has blown the breath of life and it lives again. I do not know what bird it was, but that does not matter. It was a sparrow, willow-wren, nightingale, what I will. It was that blackbird I saw one winter's morning with a red berry in its beak. It was a goldfinch flashing its golden bars among the seeded thistle-heads. It was a nightingale that kept me awake as it sang in the bushes under my window in Essex; or a curlew that sweetly, mournfully companioned me as I tramped over the hills to Clun. It was a Golden ployer I heard, but could not see, as I climbed the Cuillins, between the impalpable blues of loch and sky. And it was a seagull screaming over the granite rocks of Land's End.

It lived, too, in other countries than England. It was a Golden oriole I saw in Provence, as I sat with my back against an olive tree, the grass-hoppers clicking in the noon-day heat. It was a Black woodpecker, like a crow with a scarlet cap on, grub-hunting among the pine trees of the Black Forest. It was that eagle, my first eagle, I saw taking off from its eyrie in the Austrian Tyrol, swinging over the intervening blue chasms of air on easy, indolent wings. And it was that humming-bird in the Canadian Rockies (its body no bigger than a bee's) beating its wings so quickly that they were invisible, as with long needle-beak it

pierced the heart of a flower. It was all of these gay bird and sombre, big and small, at home and abroad.

More, it was no single bird at all, but whole flocks and charms of them-peewits over the winter plough, trailing their glittering scarves through the sky-swallows on telephone wires, foraging for lice or blandly contemplating the ewigkeit, one and all awaiting the invisible ambassador that should summon them awaywillow-wrens that arrived, punctual to no clock of man's devising, to announce the spring with their tender cries—and swifts that filled the stormy summer night with their devilish whistling as they flew like leaves before a All these were this skull that now hurricane gapes unbodied before me, type and matrix of them all.

Before the poem sings its consolation, it must be informed with the discipline of metre; and before the music transports it must obey the rules of harmony. So says this bird-skull in my hand. I know a poet who at times has astonished me by the vehemence with which he pro tests that mathematics are akin to music and to poetry. I used to suppose he spoke of mysterie hidden to me, but now I seem to understand something of what he meant. This brittle skull has unlocked the mysteries of higher mathe matics for me, without the aid of any of the abracadabra of the schools. This blue-white bone, this smooth-as-ivory cranium, with it intricate play of strut and girder and cantilever What the hammer? What the chain?' the mathematical equivalent for me now of a the bird-song, all the bird-revelry, I have ev heard or seen.

Yes, I know now how close to mathematic This bird-skull is the very algebra song. The same discipline (and what else mathematics?) that governs the building dam and bridge governs also the composition of sonnet and sonata. Under the roule les music that rise like fountain-splashes, or like rococo-scrolls, from the phrases of a lozar aria, lie, like the skull beneath the billian feathers, the foundational rules all art mus

The musician sits with the score open upo his knees, and in the silence of the printe | pa he hears the symphony. But the sym hon after all, is man-made; and who shall composite song of a bird? I hold this bird's stull my hand; but the singing, where is that

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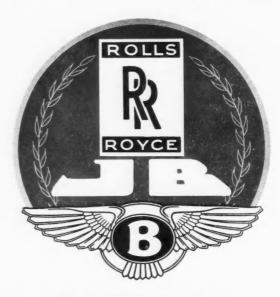


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SUCCESSFUL SMALLHOLDERS

OW the smallholding rents come in is a pretty good indication of the prosperity of the farming in a district. It is stated that for the tone in 20 years Wiltshire smallholders first rent debts. This presumably refers to ders under the County Council. It is have actory picture because County Council a sai do not make a habit of putting their tena st when they are discharging their The smallholders in Wiltshire have rent liabi turn their farms inside out in just the had ay as other small farmers elsewhere. same this helps or hinders them financially Who mainly on how knowledgeable they ut arable farming and how much help depe eir cultivations they have been able to with m the War Agricultural Committee. the smallholder has managed to plough cultivate, say, 10 acres successfully, a better financial position, but where een required to do this and given very elp or guidance with the result that the little more or less a failure, he is out of pocket crop enterprise. The many thousands of by armers all over the country who are now sma ig some arable land would benefit from closer supervision and more regular than they have yet had. They welcome much advice when it comes from men who know. Too advice cases of crop failure are due to ignorance. The man may think he knows, but he makes a mess of the job, which is not in his interest or in the nation's interest.

* * *

ORD MONCK has sent me a copy of the little booklet, A Suggestion for Agriculture. I am interested to see that he takes exactly the ORD MONCK has sent me a copy of his opposite line to Mr. Harkness, whose book was nentioned in these notes a week or two ago. Lord Monck urges that after the war no restriction should be placed on the amount of livestock to be maintained on a farm, provided that it is fully understood that no imported foodstuffs whatever will be available for feeding to livestock. In other words, the number of livestock to be maintained would be governed by the amount of foodstuffs which can be produced in this country and prices should be fixed for livestock and livestock products at such rates as will ensure a reasonable profit to farmers. The four points which Lord Monck considers fundamental to a long-term plan for British agriculture are that the plan should be capable of simple working; it should provide for the maintenance of fertility of the soil; it should ensure a balanced agriculture so that in times of emergency a switchover to a special policy can be effected speedily and efficiently; it should provide such prices to be paid to the farmer as will ensure to him a reasonable profit after paying the agricultural worker such remuneration as will compare favourably with that of skilled workers in industry. Lord Monck points out that even to maintain the quantity of livestock in this country just prior to the outbreak of war, a large arable acreage would have to be maintained. The livestock population should, he contends, be controlled by the output of the arable acreage which is, in fact, more or less what most farmers are having to practise now.

ANY market growers were glad to see Marketing that the National Vegetable Marketing Company is going out of business after this seaso It has not been a happy experiment. alternative scheme of control for the mark ting of next season's crop of carrots is w the lines of the Potato Control Scheme, which most people will agree works quite satisfactor ly. There will be fixed growers' prices and a guaranteed price for carrots of standard But it is to be hoped that growers will wed freedom in finding local markets or carrots rather than having to pass for t them rough trade channels for the benefit of m lemen. Responsibility for controlling keting of onions will also be undertaken the r Ministry of Food direct. There will be num growers' price and there is little by t a m

doubt that every consignment of onions will fetch the maximum price. Supplies will again be far short of demand and it may not be possible to get equitable distribution. But, as the consumer has only been entitled to receive 1 lb. of onions this season, the benefits of a paper scheme for equitable distribution can

IN war-time the heavier pig is a more economical product than the lightweight type evolved before the war to meet competition from Danish bacon. It is when the bacon pig is increasing from 8 score to 11 or 12 score that the animal makes the most efficient use of the chat potatoes, kitchen waste and other such material which now bulks largely in pig rations. The Ministry of Food has now recognised this by raising to 11 score the weight for which the full price of 24s. a score is paid. It might have been better to carry this limit to 12 score. Fat is wanted to-day just as much as lean meat, and as the more refined types of feedingstuffs, such as millers' offals and barley meal, will become scarcer for pigs, farmers will have to rely more on waste materials which can only be used to full advantage by heavier pigs. * * *

MANY people are wondering how the new fixed price for eggs which is to run throughout the year and to apply to all sizes of egg will work out in practice. Poultry farmers have not been treated kindly by the Government, so far, in this war. Their prices were written down in order to discourage them and force them to reduce their flocks, except in so far as they could still maintain them economically without making much call on purchased feedingstuffs. In the adjustment of prices recently made to meet higher wage rates, eggs were allowed something, but little in comparison with other products. Labour enters largely into the cost of egg production and undoubtedly the poultry farmer is still working at a disadvantage. Moreover, it is doubtful whether he will be able to draw any rations for his birds next winter. Even the dairy farmer will probably find himself going short now that the rate of flour extraction has been raised and milling offals are less plentiful.

WE ought to be thinking now about the supplementary labour we shall want later in the summer to deal with corn harvest and other seasonal jobs. Last season some farmers managed this very well with the help of schoolboys and local women, but the organisation was very patchy. Now the War Agricultural Committees are to take a hand in organising supplementary labour throughout the country. Every country town and village ought to have a roll of local women, including the squire's wife and the parson's wife, who will be prepared to give help in the fields when required. It will assist plans if farmers will tell the Committees now how much help they are likely to want and when. The suggestion has been made in the House of Commons that some labourers might be brought over from the West Indies to help in the food production campaign. This idea is not a new one. Evidence of the "tar brush" is still to be found in some parishes, where West Indian Negroes were lodged during the Napoleonic Wars. CINCINNATUS.

THE ESTATE MARKET

OPPORTUNITIES LOST

CORRESPONDENT notified us of the sale by private negotiation of a freehold of a few hundreds of acres with a pleasant, but not notable, mansion. A brief allusion to it appeared in these pages in due course, and no more was thought of it until a few days ago, when a letter was received by the agent concerned from a firm of solicitors saying that a client of theirs had read the note in COUNTRY LIFE and very much regretted that he had not been able to learn in advance that the estate was in the market. He had a keen desire to acquire just such a place, and only learned of the property too late, that is to say when he saw the report of its sale in these pages. The solicitors the report of its sale in these pages. The solicitors added that their client trusted that if any similar estate became available he might be informed of and not after, it had changed hands, as he had both the means and the mind to make

as he had both the means and the little to make a satisfactory offer to a vendor.

As a matter of fact, we often receive letters lamenting lost opportunities, the writers saying in substance, "If we had only known of the

The fault of restricted announcements does not always lie with the agent. Vendors may insist on the penny-wise pound-foolish policy, although an agent, whose business it is to understand atthough an agent, whose business it is to understand the principles of publicity, may have urged a spirited expenditure in the right channels. As in regard to real property, so in regard to chattels. The latest example actually known to us is of a work of art which was bought for something less than £10 a month ago and for which the fortunate purchaser obtained a sixtyfold advance at an auction room a fortnight later.

DEVELOPMENT DEFERRED

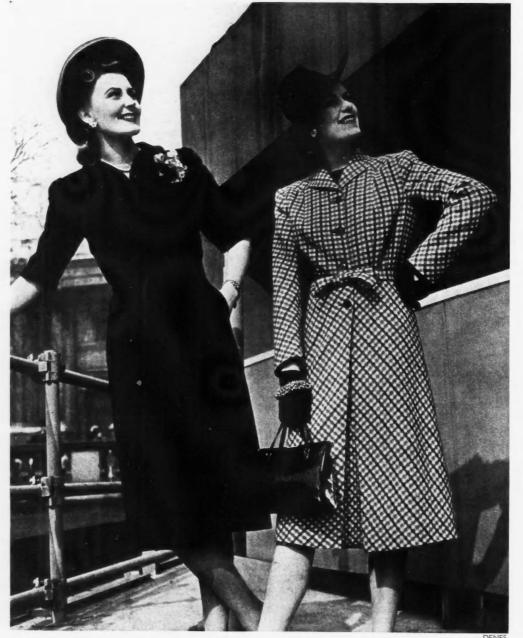
PLENTY of instances of suspended operations of estate development sould of estate development could be cited, and one of estate development could be cited, and one in which substantial progress had been made has come into the open market. Seeing how much some would-be developers have occasionally been willing to pay for merely the plans of a scheme, a good deal should be payable for a proven success in lay-out and partial development. The 1,200 acres of Hook and Warsash estate, at the mouth of the Hamble, on Southampton Water, exhibits a suspended building scheme, including a great a suspended building scheme, including a great many modern houses. The property possesses a mile and a half of coast line, and 12,000 ft. of road frontage. The golf links and Hook Grange Farm,

together nearly a square mile, will be submitted with immediate right of entry. Large farms and The Salterns, a residential freehold of 20 acres, are among the lots shortly to be submitted by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley.

IN THE MAIDENHEAD AREA

F Mr. Cyril Jones's Maidenhead office maintains I the pace set in the first quarter of this year, his annual turnover of real estate may approach or exceed £250,000. Reporting on the first three months' work Mr. Jones says: "Sales for a total of just over £63,000 include shop property in Maidenhead High Street, £16,000; and by auction on February 19, 13 houses at Bray, yielding an income of £356 per annum, £2,750. An estate offered by order of executors, comprising about 20 small houses, around Maidenhead, realised £4,100 at the same auction. On March 19 a total of 28,505 was realised at another auction in Maidenhead, comprising a small residence with possession, nead, comprising a small residence with possession, known as Kingswood Cottage, Maidenhead, and building land adjoining; The Grange, Maidenhead, a medium-size residence, let at £160 per annum, the tenant paying all outgoings; Nos. 26, 30 and 32, Clare Road, Maidenhead; and Glengariff, Maidenhead, a property arranged as three flats, producing an income of £244 per annum. Private calculations of the control of an income of £244 per annum. Private sales arranged by Mr. Jones recently include Gay's House estate at Holyport, comprising a fine Queen Anne mansion; Lane Farm, Maidenhead Thicket, Anne mansion; Lane Farm, Maidennead Inicket, a house of the Tudor period; The Lodge, Cox Green, the residence of the late Priscilla Countess Annesley, and sold by order of her executors; Little Basing, a riverside residence at Bray-on-Thames, Linkswood House, Burnham, in conjunction with Messrs. A. C. Frost; Highfields, junction with Messrs. A. C. Frost; Highfields, Cookham Dean; The Twelfth House, Maidenhead; and Clovelly, Maidenhead."

A three-days' sale of furniture took place A three-days' sale of furniture took place at the Priory, Geddington, Northamptonshire, in March, by order of the trustees of the late Mr. F. W. Montagu-Douglas-Scott. The sale was conducted by Mr. H. Jackson Stops (Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff); some of the prices realised being as follows: an electric refrigerator, 92 guineas; Hepplewhite mahogany sideboard, 100 guineas; a pair of early Georgian silver sauce boats, 26 guineas; a set of George II silver table candlesticks, 75 guineas; and an early Victorian rat-tail table service, 66 and an early Victorian rat-tail table service, 66 ARBITER.



CORDUROY and CHECK

HE necessity for saving materials having an effect on style that can be seen, at a glance, in the street. For one thing it has altered skirt lines radically. Dresses now are almost inevitably sheaths, cut on the cross so that they cling and mould Suit skirts, cut in many instances from as little as a yard, are altering the whole aspect of fashion. These skirts are made with four seams, one on each side, one in the centre front and one in the centre back, are often checked, cut up and down of the material so that the checks make diamonds. The accompanying jacket is then cut on the straight. When the skirts are in plain materials there is a seam on either side holding a hidden pleat that is stitched nearly to the knee and then released but lies absolutely flat either way. skirts, cut from the minimum of material, fasten down the centre front with a big flat stitched tuck, have stitched belts of the material and pockets, also stitched. Stitched, gored skirts, cut in bulk, are economical on yardage. All skirts are a good half-inch shorter than they were six months ago.

The new Jaeger collection was full of these straight skirts. Colours for the shepherd's checks, shown in enormous numbers, are generally dark with an affiliated light shade, as in the one we have photographed which is a chocolate brown on an oatmeal ground plus a golden yellow.

This outfit also shows one of the fashionable coats in a Saxony tweed; that is a smooth, fine tweed that looks more like a suiting than a tweed, one of those closely-woven materials that wear so well. The tops of the coats are cut on the straight, the flared skirt to the coat is cut on the cross so that the checks make diamonds. Fullness, if there is any, is placed at the back as one big box pleat. Coats and skirts in Glenurquhart checked suitings and these fine, firm Saxony tweeds, greys and mushroom browns checked and overchecked in red, blue or yellow, are everywhere. They are useful because they can be teamed with so many things-a matching checked skirt and a sweater in the brightest tone of the check, varied by a plain skirt that also picks up the colour in the over-check. A plain woollen dress in almost any bright colour tones in, so do most cotton frocks, as the basic colour of the coat is grey or brown. Many of these suiting twopieces have a top of suiting as well, that turns The tailored frock on the left is in evergreen corduroy with a fly fastening all the way down the front, two pockets and a belt that ties it in at the walst, it is also made in cherry corduroy and Naples blue corduroy, only takes above coupons and comes from Harvey Nichols,

The Jaeger coat on the right show the new way of treating dice checks—on the cross below the waist, so that they make diamonds, straight above. The coat has a matching straight skirt also cut on the cross. Colours are chock ate, brown, gold, natural.

them into a tailored dress and coat. Perhaps the smartest coats are made as I have described with a best and the material used in two ways. But there are also quite a number of good beltless coats, fitting the figure, with four pockets set in vertically and small, tailored revers.

HE star turn among the shirts are still the striped cotton ones with stiffened collars and cuffs that are so fresh and clean looking. Some have linked cuffs like a man's shirt and polo collars, some butterfly bow ties and round collars, piped. These launder superbly, so do the useful crêpe lisle shirts that are splendid for tough work in the country. They look almost as though they were knitted by hand very finely. Sweaters are tending to become more "dressy" in appearance. They have gathers at the neck or double folds, or Peter Pan collars, so that they look more There are some good like blouses. mixtures on the market of angora Harvey Nichols have and wool. splendid ribbed twin sets in this with plain necklines and padding on the shoulders to square them up. Colours are generally gay for sweaters -coral, turquoise, canary yellow and a fresh lettuce-green. Blouses and

shirts are generally white, or white striped with

a colour, or pastel.

Zips and metal frames are no longer allowed for handbags and luggage which have to be fastened in other ways. A well-designed handbag with a solid chunky frame and rolled handles like a portmanteau has a small clip that slips over and fastens it firmly. It is a useful shape, holds a lot, carries easily, opens easily and is good to look at. Week-end cases are soft and frameless, more like a kitbag, with a strap that fastens them at the top between

two handles. Some are pigskin, some are in strong, waterproof canvas, strapped in leather, very smart. The newest version of the big success at Lillywhites, the satchel bag, has a strap that can be slung over the shoulder or reduced in size so that the bag can be held in the land. There is also an outside pocket, as well as the two inside compartments of the earlier pattern.

Buttons and buckles in coloured python add a perfect finish to a tweed or suiting tillor made or tailored frock. They are made in several colours—russet brown. Lincoln green, two shades of red, and can be mached with bags and belts. Government restrictions have killed many styles but they are certainly stimulating design in many unexpected 'ays for fashion thrives on difficulties and as one shouts another one opens. So we get war fast one born of emergencies—straight, trim sirts cotton shirts and blouses, malleable, z pless handbags—charming fashions, all of them

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SOLUTION to No. 637.

The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of April 10, will be announced next week.



The winner of Crossword No. 636 is Mr. J. Sutherland Oliver, 179, Laygate Lane, South Shields.

ACROSS

- "The baseless fabric . . . the cloudcapp'd towers" of (three words, 7, 2, 5)
- 9. Anagram of 22 (7)
- 10. Member of a Livery Company (7)
- 11. It doesn't mean to the auctioneer what the boy with the tuck-box understands (4)
- 12. What 31 no longer does (5)
- 14. Song (4)
- 17. Kipling's was a shut-eye (6)
- Mail as water-plantain (6)
- 20. Most cherished at a high cost? (7)
- 21. Loosens (6)
- 23. What Tom did in Coventry (6)

CROSSWORD

No. 638

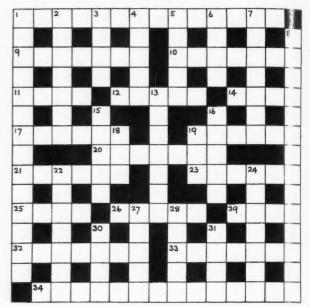
- 25. Mostly "froth and bubble" (4)
- Throw out (5)
- All too familiar bird with a longer
- tail (4)
 These fish suggest they put partings in the hair! (7)
- 33. The gift of the moment? (7)
- 34. Tommy Atkins (two words, 7, 7)

DOWN

- Joseph's brother at a scandalous school (two words, 7, 7)
- 2. "All the perfumes of Arabia will not this little hand."—Shake-
- speare (7)
 3. The poet's most beautiful one was of the West Country (4)
- 4. Is led badly (5)
- 5. Qualifies the Senior Service (5)
- 6. Nearly all a play on words, but quite feeble! (4)
 "Gone, sir?" (anagr.) (7)
- What Charlotte went on cutting when Werther's body was borne by (three words, 5, 3, 6)
- 13. Tell truthfully how old one is? How mean
- mean! (7)
 15. New a la Hitler (5)
- 16. Change (5)
- No, on the contrary (3)
- Serpent of old Nile? Well, the lesser
- one (3) No tale bearers (two words, 4, 3)
- 24. Its last days are literature (7)
- 27. Jokes (5)
- Space for the headlands (5)
- 30. To Achilles it was a physical liability
- 31. Its voice will give notice of invasion (4)

A prize of books published by Country Life, to the value of two guineas, will be awarded for the first correct solution opened Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 638, Country Life, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, April 23, 1942.

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 638.



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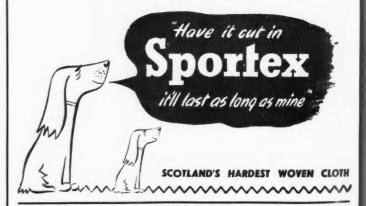
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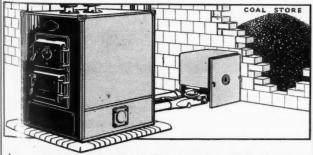
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